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Japan

U.S., Soviet Moves on Mideast Peace 'Welcomed'

OW1910041591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—Japan welcomed U.S. and Soviet moves toward promoting peace in the Middle East and offered to play a "constructive role" to assure success of an upcoming conference bringing Arabs and Israelis to the bargaining table, top government Spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Saturday.

The United States and the Soviet Union on Friday issued a joint invitation to parties involved in the more than 40-year-old conflict, asking them to attend peace talks in Madrid, Spain, on October 30.

Calling the conference "an epoch-making step toward peace" in the region, the chief cabinet secretary said it shows "important progress" at a time when the end of the Cold War is leading to a new world order.

Sakamoto's statement also reiterated Japan's position that a Middle Est peace should hinge on the acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The resolutions call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, Palestinian self-determination, and recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Japan also renewed its call for suspension of the Arab boycott, and the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied territories. Sakamoto said the moves would "build confidence" and help assure a "lasting peace."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will meet Arab and Palestinian representatives as well as delegates from international organizations. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush also plan to attend the formal opening of the conference.

Nakayama Shifts Emphasis to Russian Federation

OW1910115591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Saturday Japan should consult more closely with the Russian Federation to win the return of four disputed islands off Hokkaido.

In an interview with the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), Nakayama said Japan's talks with the Russian Republic should include the status of about 28,000 Russian residents on the islands of Shikotan, Kunashiri, Etorofu, and the Habomai Group. The Soviet Union seized the islands at the end of World War II.

He said it is "fairly feasible" that 500 million dollars in Japanese loans to the Soviet Union as part of a 2.5 billion dollar aid package would be used to buy foodstuffs and medicine from Eastern Europe and send them to the Soviet Union.

Trade Minister Nakao Leaves for Moscow 20 Oct

OW2010054191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0531 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 20 KYODO—Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry [MITI] Eiichi Nakao left for Moscow on Sunday for talks with top Soviet officials.

Nakao will discuss Japan's 2.5 billion dollar Soviet aid package and bing [as received] cooperation in the private sector in meetings with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin, and other key officials.

He is to return home Wednesday morning.

Officials Say PRC To Pursue Planned Economy

OW1810141191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—China will basically pursue a planned economy, unlike the Soviet Union and East European countries that are moving toward a market economy, Chinese officials said in Tokyo Friday.

But the officials of China's State Planning Commission said in an annual meeting with their counterparts of Japan's Economic Planning Agency that their country also plans to introduce more elements of a market economy to increase industrial productivity, conference sources said.

The Chinese officials said China has successfully increased agricultural productivity but has failed to boost industrial productivity.

The meeting was held to discuss macroeconomic issues between the two countries.

The sources said the Chinese officials showed strong interest in the roles that the government has played in Japan's postwar industrial expansion.

The Japanese told the Chinese officials that the government has played only supplementary roles in the economy and is moving to cause structural changes in the industries through deregulation.

The five-man Chinese delegation to the talks was led by Sheng Shuren, vice minister of the State Planning Commission.

Government Welcomes South African Finance Chief

OW1910093491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—Japan will welcome South African Finance Minister Barend du Plessis on a private visit to Tokyo starting Monday, after giving the cold shoulder to Foreign Minister Pik Botha just a week ago.

Du Plessis is to arrive Monday for a four-day visit during which he will meet with officials at the ministries of foreign affairs, finance and trade, as well as the Bank of Japan and other major financial institutions.

The visit comes one week after a proposed visit by Botha, who was traveling in the region, failed to materialize.

South African Consul General in Tokyo Alexander Waldemar Kuhn said the trip did not take place apparently because it would have "inconvenienced" the Japanese Government if it had occurred before elections for the United Nations Security Council.

Botha's last visit in 1986 on the eve of an international move to strengthen sanctions against Pretoria sparked sharp criticism by a number of African governments.

Japan courted African support in its bid for one of the five nonpermanent seats on the UN Security Council, which it easily won last week with 158 out of a possible 161 votes.

An official at the Foreign Ministry, who refused to be identified, denied there were talks with South Africa officials about a visit by Botha, though he said he was aware of rumors of such a trip.

Kuhn said that du Plessis is expected to ask Japan to lift sanctions on trade and investment, in addition to renewing contacts with Japanese financiers after a long hiatus.

"If sanctions were ever necessary, they have achieved their goal. The (process of ending apartheid) is irreversible," he said.

The Foreign Ministry official said the environment for lifting sanctions exists and that a decision on the issue would be made shortly.

The black nationalist African National Congress (ANC) has asked Japan to maintain sanctions until an interim government is achieved, possibly by year's end, according to a representative at the ANC's Tokyo office.

Du Plessis is to arrive from Bangkok, where he attended a meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

He will be the second South African minister to visit Japan this year, following a five-year break in ministerial-level contacts after Botha's 1986 visit.

Japan and South Africa opened consular-level relations in 1952, but Tokyo later declined to upgrade the diplomatic mission to an embassy because of South Africa's apartheid policy.

In June, the South African Parliament scrapped the three remaining laws that upheld the system of racial segregation, although talks on drafting a new constitution have not yet started.

Steelmakers Resume Imports of South African Ore

OW1910041191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Japan's six major steelmakers have signed contracts for imports of South African iron ore in anticipation of an end to Japan's economic sanctions against the country, company officials said Friday.

Japan is expected to lift the sanctions at the end of October, following the South African Government's official decision to abandon apartheid.

The six Japanese companies are Nippon Steel Corp., NKK Corp., Kawasaki Steel Corp., Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., Kobe Steel Ltd., and Nisshin Steel Co.

Under the contracts the companies will import 4 million tons of iron ore annually from South Africa's Iscor Ltd., over five years ending in March 1996. The import price will be set every year on the basis of international market prices.

The Japanese steelmakers in 1974 concluded contracts for annual imports of seven million tons of iron ore from Iscor through to 1988.

However, in 1986, the Japanese Government asked the steelmakers to halt iron ore and coal imports from South Africa as part of the economic sanctions against the country.

Bolivian President Seeks Increased Contact, Ties

OW1810125091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said Friday his visit to Japan was an important and positive start toward contact with other Asian countries.

Paz Zamora, the first Bolivian leader to pay an official visit to Japan, said he and the Japanese Government have both agreed to promote Bolivia's participation in Pacific Rim activities.

"Although Bolivia is not surrounded by sea, we think we have deep ties with Pacific coast countries, from a historical, cultural, and economic point of view," he said at the National Press Club.

"Previously, we had main ties with American or European countries. But from now, we will enter more into Asian countries and that will be through the largest and the most important door."

The Bolivian President, who arrived in Tokyo Wednesday for a four-day visit, said relations between Japan and Bolivia have entered a new stage, from those focusing on relatively short-term goals to more long-term ones.

"Japan-Bolivia relations were on a governmental level before, but during my visit here, I was able to meet officials from private enterprises and I think nongovernmental level cooperation between the two countries will be more important in the future," he said.

On talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday, Paz Zamora said he explained Bolivia's request for some 187 million dollars in loans to finance a 600 million dollar natural gas pipeline project designed to dramatically boost the country's export revenues.

"It is an important project because it will be a start for building a regional network to supply and sell Argentinean- and Brazilian-made gas to all parts of southern Latin America including Brazil," he said.

Japan is Bolivia's largest aid donor. Bolivia is the third largest recipient of Japanese aid to Latin America.

Paz Zamora also said Tokyo has basically approved a plan to provide loans of 30 to 35 million dollars to build a 199-kilometer road which will link the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean.

Touching on drug issues, he said it is a worldwide problem and the joint responsibility of every country involved in the consumption, production, or sale of cocaine.

"The important thing is to teach farmers to find crops to substitute coca-leaf so that they can continue making a living. I made a proposal at the United Nations in 1989 on developing substitute industry and it was accepted by the international community. Now, we need funds to realize the idea," he said.

The country is a major producer of the leaf from which cocaine is produced.

Earlier in the day, Paz Zamora met with Japanese Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace.

He is scheduled to visit Kyoto on Saturday before leaving Japan the same day.

Reviews Achievements of Trip

PY1910014691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Report from Tokyo by Saulo Villo Alarcon]

[Excerpts] President Jaime Paz Zamora had an intense day today in Tokyo. At the Imperial Hotel, he received the main officials of JICA [Japanese International Cooperation Agency], who promised firm support for several Bolivian development programs. [passage omitted]

A day before ending his trip to Japan, President Paz held a news conference to explain the results of his trip.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] During this visit, which will conclude tomorrow with a visit to Kyoto, I can tell you briefly that I met the emperor, who invited us for lunch; we met with the Japanese academic world at the Agricultural University of Tokyo, where I, in the name of the Bolivian people, was awarded with an honorary degree; we met with businessmen from the Japanese Businessmen's Association; we met with the Latin American Regional Group, Grula, in Tokyo; we contacted the central government through Prime Minister Kaifu during a very positive meeting and dinner yesterday; we met with the heads of the legislative branch, the presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies; and we contacted the JICA and Japanese financing agency today. I also had a very interesting meeting with Mr. Takeshita, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party.

I think that we used our time very well. The only thing I have not been able to do yet is to enjoy the good weather in Tokyo. This visit has allowed us to reach an agreement with the Japanese Government on helping Bolivia join the mechanisms of the Pacific Ocean basin. The Japanese Government is studying the possibility of financing several OSS [expansion unknown] projects. The financing for one of them, the most important one, the Patacamaya-Tambo Quemado road, which will link the Bolivian high plateau with the Pacific Ocean, has practically been approved. This project will also be financed by the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank].

As for the Export-Import Bank, this will be our first experience in dealing with it. Regarding construction of a gas pipeline and a thermoelectric plant to sell energy to Brazil, Minister Kaifu clearly told us that the Japanese Government is favorably considering financial help as long as we solve some of our pending problems with the World Bank and the IDB, which are the other two parties that will help finance the project. Although Japan will participate with $187 million, the whole project will cost nearly $600 million. This is a very important project for Bolivia because it represents a little more than the public annual investment we make in Bolivia. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Australian Official Urges Active Leadership Role

OW1910074591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0546 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—Australian Treasurer John C. Kerin on Saturday called on Japan to take an active leadership role in bringing the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion.

"I believe that there are signs of real movement in the EC (European Community) and the United States so Japan now has a unique opportunity to take a leading role," he said.

Speaking to a group of reporters at a news briefing, Kerin said rice "should not be the thing that stops Japan from taking leadership" because "Japan has an enormous amount to gain" in other areas including services and intellectual property.

The Australian finance minister is visiting Tokyo after attending the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Bangkok. Since his arrival here on Thursday for a three-day visit, he has met with Michio Ochi, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, and business leaders.

"If we can get some agreement in the Uruguay round, this whole business of fakes or brands can be better addressed," he said.

"A lot of people are using Japanese brands and cheating with them in various parts of the world."

" So there is a lot for Japan to gain, which makes a lot of sense. I think it is silly to get totally absorbed with the rice question," he said.

He criticized the formation of trading blocs saying, "the more trading blocs that are formed in the world, the more denial of free trade there is."

Bank Governor Says No Change in Monetary Stance

OW1910010191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno reiterated Friday he does not see the need to change the central bank's monetary stance.

Mieno said he will pay attention to Friday's comment by Kiichi Miyazawa, expected to be Japan's next prime minister, indicating the necessity of an early cut in the official discount rate.

But he quickly added there is no need to change the central bank's stance, dampening speculation of an imminent cut in the key lending rate.

Mieno, who has just returned after attending a series of international financial meetings held in Bangkok, told a press conference no pressure was applied on Japan to cut interest rates at the meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations.

He said upward pressure remains on labor and distribution costs, and consumer prices need a careful watch since they are staying at the 3 percent level.

SDP Chief Outlines 'New Diplomatic Principles'

OW1910040591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Opposition leader Makoto Tanabe said Friday that close ties with the United States, the United Nations and Asia are the key to Japan's diplomacy in the post-Cold War era.

Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), outlined the SDP's new diplomatic principles in a speech to Japanese and foreign reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

"Japan should continue close Japan-U.S. relations not in the bilateral but the global perspective, including the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Tanabe, who replaced Takako Doi as leader of Japan's largest opposition party in late August, said Japan and the U.S. must reestablish their bilateral security arrangement with a view toward guarding Asia-Pacific security in the new era.

He also said Japan needs to actively contribute to reforms in the United Nations. Among the changes the U.N. should discuss are reshaping the Security Council and rethinking the vetoes of five permanent Security Council members—the U.S., Britain, China, the Soviet Union and France.

He also said the United Nations should remove what is called the enemy clause, which refers to the World War II axis powers of Japan, Germany and Italy.

Tanabe touched on the party's third diplomatic principle, saying Japan must remember it is part of Asia.

Asian countries will be able to accept Japan completely as a member of Asia only if it paid war compensation to "countries on which it inflicted damage before and during World War II."

Turning to domestic politics, Tanabe said it will be impossible for the Diet to finish efforts on political reform within a year.

Reform depends on whether the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] leading presidential hopeful Kiichi Miyazawa gives more priority to political fund control, ethics and party subsidy bills than the electoral system in the effort, Tanabe said.

Miyazawa, who is virtually assured of being elected LDP president this month and succeeding Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, has advocated he will make every effort to conclude political reform legislation within a year.

Tanabe said he believed that either the proportional representation or a system close to it is the best way to reform Japan's electoral system.

LDP Presidential Hopefuls Register Candidacies

OW1910015291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—Kiichi Miyazawa, Michio Watanabe, and Hiroshi Mitsuzuka registered as candidates Saturday in the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)'s presidential election set for October 27.

The winner will replace Toshiki Kaifu as LDP president and will automatically become prime minister. Kaifu said earlier this month that he has abandoned his bid to stay in power beyond October.

The three hopefuls are leaders of three out of the five power blocs within the LDP.

Miyazawa, who leads the third-largest faction with 82 Diet members, is virtually assured of becoming Japan's next prime minister because he is backed by the largest faction which was founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The candidates are scheduled to hold a joint news conference at LDP headquarters Saturday afternoon. [passage omitted]

Hold News Conference

OW1910163591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0500 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Joint news conference with Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] presidential candidates Kiichi Miyazawa, Michio Watanabe, and Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, by unidentified reporters at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo, following the formal announcement of their respective candidacies—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Would you please tell us about the basic position or thoughts you have in facing the presidential election?

[Miyazawa] Thanks to the efforts of Prime Minister and Party President Kaifu, the party is now on its way toward regaining the public's trust. I have to regard this as important in this situation, and I would like to further help increase public trust in politics through this election. The world as well as Japan now stands at a historic turning point. I would like to make this an opportunity to think about political reform and Japan's international contribution, together with the people.

[Watanabe] The forthcoming election is the first step for political reform. In addition, this election is the first in about 10 years. This should be a democratic, free election which is open to party members, and one that is beyond factional borders. Hence, a president should be elected based primarily on the soundness of his political ideals, beliefs and policies. What is important is that he is able to enforce these things rather than to loudly shout slogans. I think this election is important in that sense.

[Mitsuzuka] To recall past history, not just since the end of World War II but from about 120 years ago—since Meiji—there has been a turning point every 40 years. There was the Russo-Japanese War, then World War II, and now 45 years have passed. There are now calls for reform in all areas, including politics and the administration. I need not tell you about the history of the rise and fall of Rome. To see the rise and fall of politics or the rise and fall of nations in the past, it is important that we make appropriate and correct judgements, and lay sound railway tracks based on historical concepts. Unless that is done, history teaches, a nation will quickly decline. Now is the time for reform. From that perspective, political reform is now being discussed, and must be carried out. And it is for this reason that the party president is elected. Therefore, it is important that the election is carried out in a fair manner. I hope that the people will come to realize through this presidential election that the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] has a distinct view on reform. After all, this election means I am making a challenge as one of the reformists.

[Reporter] All three of you candidates just now emphasized the importance of political reform. But I think that you—all three of you candidates—were not altogether enthusiastic about the three political reform-related bills which were scrapped during the last Diet session. Will you tell us how and by when you want to accomplish political reform, and please give us more specifics about the contents of the reform?

[Mitsuzuka] The government entrusted the Eighth Council [Daihachi Ishin] with studying the matter, and subsequently, bills for adopting a small constituecy district system were submitted to the last Diet session. Unfortunately these were scrapped. A ruling-opposition party consultative committee concerning the matter has since been organized. But what really counts is what the ruling LDP will do about the matter. The newly-elected president will have a two-year term. Hence he will take that into acount. First, he will have to have discussions with the party. Once party discussions are completed, consultations with opposition parties need to be carried out and then drafts will be finalized. I think these are the tasks for the new party president. I have always supported the idea of a small constituency system. I think election to the House of Representatives should be done under the small constituency system, and that election to the House of Councillors should be carried out under the proportional representation system. The people's perception of values and interests has changed. It is desirable that people who have different specializations and abilities be elected to the House of Councillors through the proportional system. My belief is that political reform should be carried out by both houses of the Diet in a simple way, so that the people can easily understand it. Such an electoral system should be a foundation for we who are pursuing the way of a parliamentary democracy. That is what I believe. Please remember that I carried out the reform of the national railroad. As you know, only a handful of people from our party initially supported me, but eventually I gained the understanding of everyone regarding the merit of dividing up the company and privatizing it. This is now occurring in a smooth fashion. What is needed is the power to push things through and the courage to have talks with those who do not agree.

By doing so, we can get agreement of the people in the party. When the agreement is obtained, we shall explain to the opposition parties that political reform should indeed be the basis for party politics and that this is necessary to answer to the expectations of the people. If dialogue can be obtained in this manner, even opposition parties will probably say that the political reform is desirable. I want to emphasize that point.

[Watanbe] There are two points in political reform. One is the revolution or rather reform of perception—the perception of candidates and voters. In fact, there is nothing new about it. This has been talked about since the days of Prince Shotoku [574- 622 AD]. Current administrative reform and royal government reform are the same thing.

The existing problem lies in the fact that large amounts of money are needed in politics, and hence large amounts of money are being collected—and thus reports of dirty acts are circulated. In order to ensure that a lesser amount of money is used in politics, it is important to reform the perception of the people.

What the people have to realize is that they have to observe the governing law in the same way they are observe traffic regulations. They have to be educated to learn to follow the law. Those who ran in the Diet election would go around, thankful for having been elected. They are not supposed to have used any money for themselves, assuming their reports to the Diet are honest. We have to come up with a realistic way to enable people not to make false reports.

It is said that the cost per vote is higher in smaller electoral districts, like city wards and towns. That is the reality. Meanwhile, some primary schools prohibit candidates for class president from giving away notebooks and so forth in election campaigns. I believe the situation can be improved by encouraging this discipline. The education is important. Strengthening traffic rules alone is not enough to prevent traffic accidents, but education on safety at schools is very effective. Some prefectures are already tackling the matter in this manner.

Another point is the system. There have been great arguments within the LDP over the question of adopting the small electoral constituency system. It is true that views have not been consolidated within the party on that question yet. But, since there are drafts already prepared, discussions concerning them between the ruling and opposition parties should be continued, based on the drafts.

[Miyazawa] I think it is important that the consultative committee of the parties should use as their base, or as their starting point for deliberations, the three bills which the government introduced to the last session of the Diet. I think we cannot continue to keep this matter at bay; nor can we continue discussing it for ever. We all know the view of the Supreme Court on the matter. There is only a limited time left until the next Lower House election, which could come at any time. My view is that we should be prepared to come up with a view in about a year.

[Reporter] It has been decided that the bill on cooperation in UN peacekeeping operations should be reviewed at the next Diet session. Will you tell us about what Japan's international contribution should be and about your plans for the bill?

[Miyazawa] I think the international contribution is important. The contribution can be in the form of finances and personnel. Our financial contribution to the Gulf war efforts was very much appreciated. I also think expectations on Japan with respect to aid to the Soviet Union are great. I believe we have to be prepared for this. Where the personnel contribution is concerned, there are differences of views. In other words, there is an area in which we can contribute personnel, and there is also an area in which we cannot make such contribution. In the area we can, however, we should be able to do the best we can. The UN Peace-keeping Operations Bill [PKO] is based on that belief, and the assertion that it should be alright to send Self-Defense Force [SDF] members overseas on natural disaster relief missions. I would like to see the bill enacted at the earliest possible date. Thus Japan will be able to declare to the world that it is willing to do what it can, even to a personnel contribution.

[Watanabe] I think the PKO Bill should be passed during the next Diet session, and I belive this will be possible. There is no question that Japan will have to make more international contributions in the future.

Where the economic contribution is concerned, however, even though Japan should do what it can, I would like to note that there is a limitation to this. I believe we should place more emphasis on software than on hardware. To speak about SDF members being dispatched overseas, if it is for natural disaster relief, it should be encouraged. I am in full support for Japan's participation in the PKO. I want to undertake a bigger task—abolishing nuclear arms from this world and carrying out drastic future arms reductions. Should that happen, the burdens of the United States and the Soviet Union will lessen. But, there is no guarantee that a thoughtless man like Iraq's Husayn will not emerge again. I could name some likely people, but I will not say so here, since I am here as a party presidential candidate. But, there are possibilities. Well then, who can bring them under control?

We need to return to a starting point and to review the need for a UN Force or the peacekeeping force. Once the countries gather together and agree on a framework of international cooperation, I think, Japan will not be able to say that it will provide only money but not people. Last time, when Japan provided hundreds of billion yen in aid, there was not much international appreciation for it. But, when Japan sent minesweepers at the cost of only a thousandth of that, the response was very good. That was the reality.

For that reason, I think we should welcome debate on an amendment to the Constitution. The action may be impossible under the existing definition of the Constitution, but by encouraging discussions on the amendment of the Constitution, the understanding on the problem will be deepened; then the understanding of the world will be furthered. I think Japan can hold the leadership in contributing to world peace and to the elimination of all wars.

[Mitsuzuka] I think it is important for the nation, as well as the people, that the PKO Bill be enacted at the next session of the Diet. We have received support for the bill from the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]. We shall have to continue to solicit the support of the DSP; the party has been sincere in caring about national security and the international cooperation in the past.

Fortunately, the ad hoc Security Committee has been promoted to standing committee status. We shall have to think about the best use for this committee. Going back to my view of history, within the 120 years of the nation's modern history, the periods in which Japan prospered were the 20 years during which Japan had alliance with Britain and the 40 years after the war when Japan had alliance with the United States. Our present day economic power was made possible by thse alliances.

In other words, the Japan's past prosperity was possible because it lived with a perception of values or with common sense—because Japan lived in the world of the present.

Japan is a country of peace. It is important that it defends by every means Article 9 of the Constitution. But, I think also that Japan should be able to participate together with the world in the activities within the definition of the Constitution, as long as such activities conform to common sense and the framework of the new world order.

If Japan wants to do everything with money, I am afraid it may be called a country which does not understand common sense. To recall past history, the 40 year period from the time of the Russo-Japanese War to World War II was a period in which the nation looked away from the then current world situation, and did not realize its wrongdoings, and was not willing to remedy them, even when they were realized. That period led to the defeat of the country and the unfortuate years following the war. We have to firmly bear this in mind.

We certainly do not want a situation of observing the law, but failing to protect the nation. However, we can no longer accept the past pattern of government doing things—only following public opinion. Now is indeed the time requiring political leadership which can forge ahead and lead the nation.

[Reporter] Now, we would like to go on to the next question, which concerns diplomatic issues. I would like to hear your views on how to deal with various important diplomatic tasks, such as future Japan-U.S. relations, as well as the improvement of Japan-Soviet relations, centered on the northern territorial issue.

[Mitsuzuka] It has been said that the post-cold war age has arrived. Not only the rest of the world, but we ourselves, heartily welcomed its arrival, believing that the world would now enjoy peace. At that very moment, a man named Saddam Husayn, who is also known as the Mussolini of modern times, suddenly appeared in the Middle East and attempted to annex Kuwait by armed force. The world was astonished. The United Nations Security Council [UNSC] did its utmost by taking various actions. I think it was excellent that, while upgrading its prestige, the UNSC succeeded in establishing a common understanding that peace must be safeguarded through joint efforts.

In the meantime, not only the United States, but also the Soviet Union took steps forward in this orientation. For the Gorbachev administration, which advocates a policy of perestroyka, it was just a matter of course to move in this orientation. Yet, the fact that the Soviet Union mentioned to its former ally that what was wrong must be corrected was certainly of great significance to peace.

Japan has enjoyed economic prosperity under the Japan-U.S. alliance for 40 years since the war. Therefore, although the thrust of Japan's diplomacy should be omnidirectional, Japan-U.S. relations should be the axis. As a member of the Asian community, Japan will need to maintain such relations until it can win complete confidence from the Asian nations. What is more, as two major Western powers sharing the same sense of values, we shall have to cooperate with each other and do our best for the sake of world peace and for the well-being of the world's people.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it has to fight hard in promoting its perestroyka policy. The August coup ended in failure. In the meantime, although thigns are very difficult and there are still numerous factors of instability, the Soviet Union is doing its best in moving in the orientation of peretroyka to seek liberty and democracy. In this connection, it is essential that we should give them firm support. The basis of our diplomacy lies in the principle of not separating political consideration from economic interests. As far as the government is concerned, it should do its best to persist in this principle. What I am stating here is that we should demand the return of the four islands.

However, it should be remembered that stability in the Soviet Union leads to stability in the world. It also means that there will be stability in Japan and in Asia as well. In this connection, we shall have to support this situation for the sake of the world and of mankind. Therefore, a political decision will have to be made. In my opinion, it will be desirable to provide active support.

[Watanabe] Well, regarding Japan-U.S. relations, I think the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty should be continued on the basis of maintaining the Japan-U.S. axis. We have unpleasant memories in marking the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor this year. On the other hand, based on our introspection over this incident, we are also marking the 40th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Therefore, we must frankly acknowledge the results of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

It is impossible to safeguard peace through unarmed neutrality. Under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Japan has been relieved of the danger of being directly invaded by other nations. Moreover, Japan has been able to maintain peace and stability with small military or defense budgets. This is of great significance.

There is another point that Mr. Mitsuzuka has just mentioned. While it is true that all Asian nations feel it is acceptable for Japan to become an economic power, it is also true that they are concerned over the possibility of Japan becoming a military power. However, they have stated their relief in noting that when the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is signed, the two nations will jointly make various contributions, including personnel contributions, on the basis of this treaty. Thus, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty will have to be kept in effect.

However, concerning its contents, I think it is inevitable that the Soviet Union will promote disarmament. Will the Soviet Union find it desireable to maintain a vast number of the existing military bases and military hardware? Or will it be more desirable for them to put funds into efforts for stabilizing the people's livelihood? Once its perestroyka policy is carried out and democratization is achieved, conclusions will naturally be reached on these questions. Then, as a result, something like the Soviet Far East Fleet will be reduced by a large margin. When the trend should move in this dircetion, the United States may also be able to reduce its Pacific Fleet, because this will be in the interests of the United States itself. In this sense, I feel that, even though there will be some differences in its content, it will still be necessary carry on the spirit of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Regarding the Soviet Union, although we would like to give it our full support, it is not prepared to receive aid. It remains unclear who is in charge now. It is not known whether it is Mr. Yeltsin, or Mr. Gorbachev, or if it is Governor Fedorov where coastal oblasts, such as Sakhalin Oblast, are involved. It is essential that they make clear wherein lies the authority. On this basis, we would like to promote future friendly relations. For the time being, however, we will only provide humanitarian aid. With such aid, we shall do our best to followup on it so that there will be no riots in the Soviet Union. It might not be appropriate to say that we would take care of it, but I think it is important for us to do our best to provide cooperation.

[Miyazawa] I think there has been no change in the fact that Japan-U.S. relations are the basic framework for Japanese diplomacy. That the two nations share a basic outlook on values is the most important matter. In particular, I believe there will be many instances in which our two countries fulfill international responsibilities togther. Therefore, it will be necessary to exchange frank views. When President Bush visits here in November, I think it will be meaningful to look back on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and confirm in a Tokyo Declaration what relationship Japan and the United States should have and what they should do in the next 50 years.

Regarding the Soviet Union, there are two problems. One is the relationship between the federation and republics, and the other concerns whether or not all the republics, including the Russian Republic, will truly shift to a market economy. Since both these issues are still in the dark, it remains unknown as to what extent drastic changes will be brought about during this century. Thus, I think it will be better to suggest that it may take another 10 or 20 years.

At any rate, the facts that the Soviet Union and all the republics will contribute to world peace, will not impose danger of wars, will stop imposing threats to the world, and will move toward the orientation of a market economy are of great significance to our nation. In this connection, I think we should provide aid, both technological and financial, in a more positive way. There are still various conditions that have to be fulfilled before the start of our financial aid. However, we must be prepared that our aid will need to to be provided over a prolonged period and will encompass a considerably huge amount.

As for the northern territorial issue, our approach toward the Soviet Union is based on goodwill and friendship. Of course, the other side should be asked to understand this point, and under such circumstances, a peace treaty should be taken into consideration. In my opinion, there are good reasons for us to cherish such expectations.

If I am allowed to add one or two points, I would like to point out that, since such a change has been achieved in the Soviet Union, I think the military significance of the northern territories will become considerably different. What is most important, I think, is to take various measures to let the residents on these islands understand that they will have bright future prospects, and that no problems will be imposed on them. Since we are dealing with a foreign nation, there must be some limits to a frontal diplomatic approach. Therefore, I think what is very important at this point is to make efforts to let the local residents feel at ease and cherish bright hopes for their future by recruiting resources from the private sector or by taking advantage of exchange visits without visas.

[Reporter] The next question is related to the previous question on political reform. What concrete plans do you have for dealing with the issue on establishing political ethics, including retrospection on the Recruit scandal?

[Miyazawa] Concerning this point, I thought I had tried to be very cautious during my long years of political life, and I don't know what excuse to make for my negligence. I think I shall keep it in mind as a valuable lesson to myself throughout my life. Therefore, although this issue concerns my own ethical problem, I think that, as far as the system is concerned, it will be very important to carry out political reform as I have just mentioned.

[Watanabe] Here is something that I wanted to state just now. Concerning the northern territorial issue, we should ask the Soviet Union to admit that what Stalin did was wrong. In my opinion, the issue will be settled of itself if measures are taken to publicize this point.

Then comes the Recruit issue. In fact, it was something that took place at a time when I was kept completely in the dark. Nevertheless, since it aroused serious apprehensions and troubles, I would like to offer my apologies. Therefore, I think I will be more cautious, so that no similar incidents ever take place again.

Well, it has been mentioned that some of those involved have been cleared while others have not. However, it should be noted that, depending on the individual cases, there are great differences. There are differences in individual cases, and there are also differences in details about the cases. When it comes to moral responsibility, [words indistinct]. Some may look as if they were innocent; others may look as if they were [words indistinct]; and some others may look as if they were [words indistinct] even after their death. Different people may certainly have differing views.

Regarding this issue, I think judgments must be passed in a comprehensive way. Since this is an issue of morality, and since it is related to each individual, there is no other way but to leave it to the judgment of the voters. Therefore, based on my promise to take sufficient precautions so as not to arouse such problems any more, I am asking for the support of the voters.

[Mitsuzuka] Well, this so-called Recruit incident was an event that has seriously affected the general public's trust in politics. Accordingly, the Kaifu cabinet was inaugurated. The fact is that efforts were made to tackle the issue of political reform—for example, fundamental principles were formulated—even when the Takeshita cabinet was still in power, although it was in the latter half of his term. Then, the general election was held, and in my personal opinion, various cases were cleared through the general election.

At the same time, as far as the party is concerned, the presidential election will be held this time. The new party president will also take the position of prime minister. Thus, in order to win the general public's understanding, it will be important to settle this issue by carrying out the three bills concerned with political reform. As for political ethics, it is precisely the issue that concerns the relationship between money and politics or elections, as has always been mentioned, and that has always caused the people to distrust politics. Therefore, each individual politician must practice self-control and self-discipline. In particular, since our nation is a law-governed state, and since we are living in such an age, it is far more important for each individual politician to carry out his tasks while abiding by the laws.

[Reporter] You have now entered the election campaign. It is viewed in some quarters that the outcome of the election can be foreseen even now because the Takeshita faction, the largest faction, has decided to support Mr. Miyazawa. Therefore, I would like to ask how you analyze the situation at this point, including your analysis of how party members and associate members are going to vote in the election.

[Mitsuzuka] Well, your question concerns the analysis of the situation. Among over six million and several hundred thousands of LDP members, there are 1,750,000-odd party members who have the right to vote. That is, those who have paid party fees for three consecutive years. Moreover, in about a week, the LDP president will be elected as prime minister. Recently, many of our people have come to regard this election as the election for the prime minister.

Under such circumstances, since a question will probably be asked on this issue later, I will not touch on it now. However, the basic principle of how are we going to fight in this election campaign lies precisely in this point. The significance lies in the fact that the election will not end up merely as the election for the LDP president or as the election for the opposition party—it will be linked to the election of the prime minister. Thus, we will have to clearly state our policies to our people and our party members, to present our basic principles concerning future political management, and to move along with our people. Therefore, I would like to do my best and to devote myself to this cause. I feel that I would make efforts to win our people's understanding and accept the outcome of the results of my efforts in a calm way.

[Watanabe] I do not know whether it should be called the Takeshita faction or Kanemaru faction. Which is correct? I think the point lies in the fact that such a trend has been created by the mass media. The trend was created because all the papers started writing all at once about Mr. Miyazawa's advantage and about the Takeshita faction's decision. Since he has good character and leadership, I do not know whether there is anything I can do about it. [Watanabe laughs]

Anyway, as one faction has authorized its chairman to make the decision, the 100-odd members as well as the affiliated party members all have failed to take any action. When you take this fact as a precondition for settling this issue, you will naturally say that there is no question about Mr. Miyazawa's winning the election. It is just nonsense. Is that not right? Well then, there is no need at all to hold this election. In that case, it would be better to just cancel the election.

This issue should not be dealt with in that way. There are various factors that have to be taken into consideration. For example, there are one's political principles, philosophy, conscience, policies, associates, character and leadership. There are quite a few such factors. When it comes to the question as to what factors should have priority, it is not strange that different people may have likes or dislikes to some degree. All people may like Mr. Miyazawa. But who knows that I, Watanabe, may be a better choice? Some people may have this view. If there are no such likes and dislikes, there will be no sense in holding the election. Therefore, I feel that the forthcoming election should aim at overcoming former practices.

Of course, it might be difficult to change past practices or change the argument based on factional interests at one breath. However, if the current election should be held exactly in the same way as in previous cases, I feel that it will be better to take down the banner of political reform. That is what I feel at present.

[Miyazawa] Well, I have experienced many of my own election campaigns and also those of my friends. As a result, I have the feeling that an election is something fearful. I have come to feel that the outcome always remains unknown until it comes to an end.

Well, since I am one of the candidates, I am not quite familiar about the facts that have been asked just now. I know that my comrades are paying attention to these facts on my behalf. As far as I am concerned, I will do my best by making a campaign tour of the nation to seek support. This I feel is my responsibility, and I think it will lead to an open election. Since the end of the Diet sessions, I have devoted myself to this campaign tour, and I do not think I can give an accurate answer to the question that has been asked just now. Anyway, I am determined to do my very best.

[Reporter] My next question concerns the situation following the presidential election. All of you have mentioned that the unity of the whole party will be established. What are your ideas about concrete measures to run the party, including such issues as the appointment of the three top party executives?

[Miyazawa] Since I am one of the candidates, I think it will tend to arouse misunderstandings if I should answer such a question at this point. However, when we come to think of it, all three of us have been party members for many years now, and we are all aware of the situation concerning Japan and the current world. Therefore, I think that all three of us will agree that it is essential to establish the strongest unity through the efforts of the whole party at this important juncture in time. As one of the candiates, this is my view.

[Watanabe] Well, talks are held even between the ruling and opposition parties at the Diet. I do not know whether our party can be called a union of factions. However, it is true that there are factions within the LDP. And, when it comes to principles and claims, there is no division between rightists or leftists in the party. There are, of course, enough possibilities for talks, which might be started even tomorrow. We have reached an accord just now that the upcoming election should be held in such a clean way that no unpleasant feelings would be left behind. Who will get first prize is still unknown, as well as second prize or third prize. Anyway, the one who is elected will become party president. Therefore, while holding talks with all the others, he will decide on personnel appointments based on the principle of assigning the right person to the right position. We know that even if we are elected, it will be impossible to have our claims completely carried out. Therefore, we hope that 70 or 80 percent, or maybe 60 percent, of our claims will be accepted, and we would be glad to provide our cooperation whenever necessary. This is how I feel.

[Mitsuzuka] This issue concerns the LDP, which is a large political party. It is a structure that is also called as a union of factions; however, we advocate the same party platform and policies. Therefore, as a result of an impartial election carried out in fair play, one of us will be elected. Then, the righteous duty that will be assigned us is to do our best in carrying out our tasks in the interests of the nation and of our people under the unity of the whole party. In this connection, there is one major prerequisite.

As I have just mentioned, the election of the party president is linked to the election of the prime minister. Concerning some urgent and important tasks, all three candidates must agree on those points on which they share the same views, and carry out these tasks in an urgent way. Therefore, such events as public discussions are held in the presence of party members or the people. The foundation of parliamentary politics lies in people because politics exist only where people exist, and I feel that it is important for us to hold discussions on this stage; further carry on discussions to reach an accord; and seek the understanding of our people as well as cooperation of our party members.

Such efforts include promoting political reform, international contributions, and solutions to the earth's environmental problems. At home, I think that there certainly are such issues as the establishment of a fair society. Moreover, there is also the issue of economic policy. The Finance Ministry as well as the Bank of Japan for their parts are engaged in strictly guarding economic and financial policies. With the approach of the year's end, it is feared that medium- and small-sized companies will tend to go into bankruptcy one after another. In fact, some of them have already gone down.

Therefore, I think it is important for all the presidential candidates to discuss measures for settling these issues so that their policies will be enforced effectively in the interests of Japan. Only then will our people be able to do their best to engage in legitimate pursuits and economic activities while feeling at ease. While an accord should be reached in this concern, some objectives must be taken as mid-term tasks. Only when we start at this point can we pursue politics based on the unity of our whole party. I believe that as a result, our people will trust us, and we will enjoy trust but not disdain from the international community.

[Reporter] Well, there are still other questions such as the issue of liberalizing the rice market; however, since it seems that our time is up, we would like to conclude today's interview now. Thank you very much.

North Korea

New U.S. Missile Deployment in South Condemned

SK2110090891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "An Act Running Counter to the Desire for Peaceful Reunification"]

[Text] According to broadcasts from Seoul on 18 October, the U.S. imperialists have deployed Avengers, a new type of missile, in the 2nd Infantry Division of the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression occupying South Korea, for actual combat.

Changing their earlier decision to supply these missiles manufactured by Boeing to U.S. forces units stationed in Europe, the U.S. imperialists are reported to have deployed them in U.S. infantry units occupying South Korea ahead of schedule.

This is an intolerable challenge to our people and the world's peace-loving people who hope for peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification and another criminal act straining the situation on the Korean peninsula even further.

As is widely known, as a result of the U.S. imperialists' policy of a forceful occupation of South Korea and nuclear war, about 40,000 U.S. imperialist troops of aggression and about 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea. Because of such war exercise commotions as Team Spirit, a nuclear test war of northward invasion and preliminary war conducted by the U.S. imperialists, the situation in our country has been aggravated to the extreme.

In particular, with a view toward upgrading their combat capabilities in actual fighting, the U.S. imperialists are conducting provocative joint aerial and ground strike exercises daily in South Korea.

Such maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists could kindle the flames of war on the Korean peninsula at any given time. If and when this happens, it will easily escalate to a global thermonuclear war. A thermonuclear war will plunge not only our people, but also people in Asia and the world at large into a nuclear holocaust from which it is impossible to recover.

For this reason, the peace-loving people the world over, while actively supporting and agreeing to our peace proposal for converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, strongly call on the United States to withdraw U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The struggle to evict U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea is gathering momentum among the South Korean youth, students, and people. A case in point is the hunger strike staged recently in front of the White House by Yi Tong-hwan, the student who had recently been sent to the United States by the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop] as its representative, along with his fellow students residing in the United States, members of the Chondaehyop [word indistinct] Committee, calling for the realization of the proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Withdrawing U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea has become a call of the times. And a few days later the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks to discuss issues associated with the removal of the political and military confrontation between the North and South is scheduled to be held in Pyongyang.

At a time when the peace-loving people of the world unanimously call for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and when the North and South are expected to discuss issues associated with doing away with the political and military confrontation between them, the U.S. imperialists have deployed a new type of missile in South Korea.

By doing so, they have once again laid bare for all to see that they are directly responsible for having disturbed the peace and that they are warmaniacs responsible for having aggravated the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Moreover, the U.S. imperialists deployed a new type of missile for actual combat in South Korea only after U.S. President Bush announced on 27 September that the United States will unilaterally scrap short-range nuclear weapons in the bases on the ground and air and will take measures aimed at removing them basically. U.S. behavior as such calls into question the credibility of Bush's proposal.

Even after Bush's proposal was made public, the U.S. authorities were saying that they have decided to shelve their plan to withdraw the air-launched nuclear weapons while paying lip service to the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea and then have brought in new type missiles. This renders the proposal for withdrawing the short-range nuclear weapons preposterous. It cannot be interpreted other than as empty talk and an effort to improve outward appearances.

If the United States is really interested in peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, it should withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons, not partially, but completely and fully from all areas—the ground, the sea, and the air.

The U.S. imperialists should free themselves from the anachronistic idea of holding on to South Korea as a forward nuclear base and keeping their nuclear blackmail policy toward us in place.

If the U.S. imperialists, while running riot in their nuclear war moves, keep bringing into South Korea nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, they will never be able to avoid a stronger denunciation and rejection from our people and the world people.

Called 'Unpardonable Challenge'

SK1910061991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists deployed missiles of new type, "Avenger", in the U.S. Second Infantry Division present in South Korea, according to a radio report from Seoul on October 18.

They had planned to supply the missiles made by the U.S. Boeing Company to units of the U.S. forces present in Europe first but changed the plan and deployed them in the U.S. infantry unit present in South Korea ahead of schedule, added the radio.

This is an unpardonable challenge to the Korean people and the world peaceloving people who want peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, and another crime of further aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists deployed new-type weapons in South Korea at a time when the fourth round of the inter-Korean high-level talks to discuss the question of removing the political and military confrontation between the North and the South and other questions will be held in Pyongyang within a few days. This discloses once again to the world that they are wreckers of peace, warmaniacs and the very ones who are aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors must stop at once the reckless military action going against the Korean people's aspiration after peaceful reunification.

Groups Demand Pullout of U.S. Nuclear Weapons

Youth League Statement

SK1810113191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 18 (KCNA)—The United States should completely withdraw all its nuclear weapons and troops first of all from the Korean peninsula fraught with the greatest nuclear danger and show the Korean people and the world people its implementation of nuclear disarmament plan as it committed itself. Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK], said this in a statement issued on October 17.

The United States and the South Korean authorities have not recognized the existence of nuclear weapons in South Korea but insisted we must unilaterally sign the nuclear safeguards accord while misleading world public opinion by saying that the question of our signing the nuclear safeguards accord and the question of withdrawing nuclear weapons from South Korea are separate issues, he noted, adding:

Today when the United States made public a step for nuclear reduction and announced that nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea are included in it, the world people clearly realised how brazen the claim of the United States is and how unreasonable and subservient the words of some countries which have acted without independence under the baton of the United States are.

The South Korean authorities should not make desperate efforts to resort to the U.S. nuclear umbrella now when the United States announced that it will withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea, but admit their indelible crime in trying to impose nuclear disasters upon the whole nation and respond to the DPRK Government's proposal for denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, before it is too late.

Our people and youth and students will watch how the United States carries into effect its nuclear disarmament proposal in South Korea.

Peace Committee Statement

SK2010084591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0810 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 20 (KCNA)—The United States must withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea totally, not partially, and at the same time, pull out its troops, stressed Yi Song-ho, vice-chairman of the Korean National Peace Committee, in a statement issued to the press on October 19.

He went on:

The United States belatedly admitted the existence of its nuclear weapons in South Korea and recognized the necessity of their withdrawal from there along with those deployed in different parts of the world. This clearly shows to the world people once again that correct is our principled stand that the question of our signing the nuclear safeguards accord and the question of withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea are not separate issues but are closely correlated.

The South Korean puppets doubt the "protection by the U.S. nuclear umbrella" and beg for the United States to keep its nuclear weapons in South Korea. This brings into bolder relief their anti- national color that is clearly indifferent to what nuclear holocaust is forced on the country and the nation.

The South Korean authorities must apologize to the whole nation for their indelible treacherous crime with the question of nuclear weapons and turn out to free the Korean peninsula from nuclear weapons, before it is too late.

The United States must not use its commitment to the withdrawal of its nuclear weapons before the world as a show window and trick but radically remove the nuclear threat on us.

Agricultural Union Statement

SK1910055691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—The United States should implement as soon as possible its commitment to the reduction of its nuclear weapons and withdraw them first of all from South Korea where the density of their distribution is the highest in the world. Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, said this in a statement issued to the press on October 18.

The statement noted:

The United States this time admitted the existence of its nuclear weapons in South Korea and recognized the necessity of their withdrawal from South Korea. This reveals that their claim that there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea was a lie proceeding from a sinister political aim.

Now reports say that the U.S. decided to postpone the withdrawal of air-launched nuclear weapons even if it withdraws its nuclear weapons from South Korea. If it is true, the U.S. commitment to the withdrawal of nuclear weapons will be nothing but a show window and trick.

It cannot be said that the U.S. nuclear threat to us has disappeared if its nuclear weapons are partially withdrawn from South Korea.

The United States should totally and comprehensively withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The South Korean authorities must stop at once repeating bellicose outbursts that they would make "military retaliation" on us, while persistently resorting to the "protection by the U.S. nuclear umbrella", and must apologize to the whole nation for their anti-national attempts to impose nuclear disasters upon our people and the country.

Newspaper Article

SK2010095091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0847 GMT 20 Oct 91

["U.S. Nuclear Weapons Should Be Immediately Withdrawn From South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 20 (KCNA)—The United States should take a measure to pull its nuclear weapons out of South Korea at an early date at the present juncture when it proclaimed its unilateral abolition of short-range nuclear weapons, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula presents a more urgent matter than in any other areas either in view of the pressing situation prevailing in this region or in view of the importance of the strategic position of the Korean peninsula, the article points out, and continues:

It is not accidental that military experts say with apprehensions that a nuclear explosion may happen by an accidental case on the Korean peninsula and its flames may easily spread wide.

The presence of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea is a root cause of gravely menacing the Korean nation's right to live and jeopardizing peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The decisive key to denuclearising the Korean peninsula is to get the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea.

Our Republic has neither nuclear weapons nor capability and intention to develop them.

What is problem in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, therefore, is the presence of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The United States has no conditions to refuse the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons from South Korea and no reason and pretext to oppose the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

The present reality changed makes it incumbent upon the United States to positively respond to the proposal of the DPRK for the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons from South Korea and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The United States which has contended that it has deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea to keep the Soviet Union from "moving southward" has no more reason to deploy its nuclear weapons in South Korea.

In light of the spirit and requirements of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the United States, a nuclear-power, should stop opposing or shunning the removal of nuclear threat from the Korean peninsula and its denuclearisation.

For the settlement of the question of signing of the nuclear safeguards accord as well as the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula the U.S. nuclear weapons should be taken out of South Korea without delay.

Peace Agreement To Replace Armistice Urged

SK1910102491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 19 Oct 91

["'Peace' Ballad Turning Aside From Peace"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—If the guarantee of peace is to be provided on the Korean peninsula, the armistice agreement should be replaced with a peace agreement, the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons be withdrawn from South Korea, a nonaggression declaration be signed between the North and the South and disarmament be realised, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article continues:

We already put forward the four principles of peace—reunification-orientation, withdrawal of foreign troops, North-South disarmament and negotiation between parties concerned—and peace package. In recent years we have advanced such proposals as those for multinational disarmament, the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and the adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South, and have made all sincere efforts to carry them into effect.

But the South Korean authorities, crying for "peace" and the "termination of the Cold War" outwardly, are standing opposed to any measures to substantially ensure peace on the Korean peninsula.

It is the common aspiration of the Korean nation and the world peaceloving people to have a nonaggression declaration adopted between the North and the South with a view to removing the military confrontation on the Korean peninsula and fundamentally improving the North-South relations.

We proposed the adoption of a nonaggression declaration at the North-South high-level talks, attaching priority to the military problem, the question of peace. The South Korean authoriies, however, persistently sidestepped it under unreasonable pretext.

It is apparent to everyone that the "confidence-building" problem cannot be solved by means of travels and trade and the information of military action in our country.

The South Korean rulers are calling for giving "priority to confidence-building". It is a pretext to avoid the adoption of a nonaggression declaration and a telltale sign that they are indifferent to peace.

While averting their face from such crucial matter as the adoption of a nonaggression declaration, the South Korean rulers are obstrusively poking their nose into the problem of the replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

The armistice agreement was concluded with the North as one party and the U.S. forces under the helmet of the United Nations forces as the other.

The South Korean puppets seek a sinister intention in claiming to be a "party" concerned in the adoption on a "peace agreement".

They intend to balk the replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace agreement, free the United States from the blame for the tension on the Korean peninsula and keep the U.S. forces under the helmet of the United Nations forces.

It can be on no account considered to be for peace.

The South Korean puppets' anti-peace posture finds a concentrical expression also in that they do not want to clear the Korean peninsula of the clouds of a nuclear war.

It is a scheme to keep the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea under the pretext of the fictitious "nuclear development by the North" and a criminal move to start a nuclear war against the North together with the U.S. imperialists allegedly because the North fails to accept "nuclear inspection".

"Peace" ballad is not enough to veil the ugly color of the warmaniacs.

KCNA Reports U.S., South Military Exercises

17 Oct Actions

SK1910062291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force Command on October 17 committed a provocative joint aerial war exercise in the sky above the area of South Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the playing with fire staged for long hours in the sky above the areas of Anmyon Islet, Wonju and Yoju to raise the capacity of joint air-to-ground strikes of fighter planes of various types were formations of nuclear-capable fighter-bombers and assault planes based in Japan proper and the Pacific and more than 200 fighter planes of the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea and the puppet air force.

That day the South Korean puppets at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists staged a war exercise getting on our nerves in the area near the Demilitarized Zone of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL].

On the 17th, 105 mm gun groups of the puppet army which were deployed in the area of Chukhyon-ri, Paju County, fired volleys of over 40 shells at an area adjacent to the DMZ, threatening us.

On the same day formations of the armed helicopters of the puppet army staged a war manoeuvre of detecting and striking targets in the areas of our side along the MDL. The number of war planes which were mobilized in the aerial war exercises in the sky above South Korea on October 17 alone was more than 600.

18 Oct Exercises

SK2010083891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 20 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force Command on October 18 staged a joint aerial strike exercise against the North in the sky above South Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the exercise in the sky above the areas of Oeyon Islet, Yoju and Kunwi were formations of fighter-bombers and assault planes based in Japan proper and the Pacific and more than 400 fighter-bombers and assault planes including F-16, F-4, F-5 and A- 37 of the U.S. Seventh Air Force and the South Korean puppet air force.

The U.S. imperialists sent E-3 AWACS to the sky above South Korea from the overseas base to take aerial photographs of the northern half of Korea and command the flying corps mobilized in the joint aerial strike exercise.

On the same day they let a high-altitude strategical reconnaissance plane fly in the sky above the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] for espionage.

In a separate action, the South Korean puppets fired guns and large-calibre machine guns near the MDL of Paju County in the western sector of the front and staged an aerial war exercise.

A total of 720 military planes were mobilized in the air and ground strike, support to ground attack, air-transport operation, air dropping, aerial espionage and other war exercises in the sky above South Korea on October 18.

Military Welcomes Visiting PRC Naval Delegation

SK1910063291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—A soldiers' meeting was held at the Navy Command of the Korean People's Army (KPA) Friday in welcome of the visiting Navy delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (CPLA).

Speaking at the meeting, KPA Senior Vice-Admiral Kim Il-chol said that the fraternal Chinese people and CPLA officers and men are pushing ahead with socialist construction and defence upbuilding under the leadership of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core and that China is now dynamically advancing for the building of socialism with its own characteristics.

Noting that the Korean people and People's Army soldiers are rejoiced as over their own over the achievements made by the fraternal Chinese people and servicemen in their efforts for socialist modernization, he sincerely wished them greater success in their endeavours to attain the new goals, "the ten-year plan of national economy and social progress and the Eighth Five-Year Plan", maintaining "one centre, two main-points".

Korea and China are close neighbours with rivers and mountains in between and the two peoples and armies are class brothers and comrades-in-arms who have fought together in the anti-imperialist joint front, he noted, and stressed:

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's recent visit to China showed once again, the Korean people and Army will as ever fight shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Chinese people and Army in the same trench for peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world and for socialism.

Speaking next, Commander of the Navy Zhang Lianzhong who is leading the delegation said that the leaders of China and Korea made the friendly relations between the two peoples closer and recorded a new chapter in history of Sino-Korean friendship this time and that Comrade Pesident Kim Il-song's visit to China will surely display great vitality in strengthening and developing Sino- Korean friendship.

Pointing out that Sino-Korean friendship was provided and has been cultivated jointly by President Kim Il-song and Comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping and other veteran leaders of China, he said the two peoples have supported and cooperated with each other in each period and stage of the revolution and construction.

Our friendship was forged in blood, he noted, and stressed:

It not only accords with the fundamental interests of the two peoples but greatly contributes to peace and security in Asian region that the two parties, two countries and two armies defend the socialist cause, strengthening and developing friendly relations steadily.

He further said:

The Chinese people and the People's Liberation Army are deeply interested in the cause of Korean reunification.

The United States must withdraw its troops and military equipment from South Korea and the Korean question should be solved by the Korean people themselves without any foreign interference.

Saying that the Chinese and Korean peoples are brothers in the relationship of lips and teeth, he emphasized that if we are closely united and support each other, we will be able to overcome any difficulties and defeat any enemy.

Received by Kim Il-song

SK1910111491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting Navy delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army led by Commander of the Navy Zhang Lianzhong.

Present on the occasion were Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u, Senior Vice-Admiral of the Korean People's Army Kim Il-chol, Charge d'affaires ad interim Chiang Zhengcai and military attache Yin Guangtao of the Chinese Embassy here.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The head of the delegation presented him with a gift.

He hosted a luncheon for the guests.

Presents Gift to Kim Chong-il

SK1910111691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Navy Commander Zhang Lianzhong, who is leading the Navy delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u by Zhang.

PRC Trust, Investment Delegation Arrives

SK2010092491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0827 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 20 (KCNA)—A delegation of the China International Trust and Investment Corporation headed by Deng Zhifang, vice-president of the Technology Incorporation of the corporation, arrived here Saturday.

It was met at the airport by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cha Pong-chu and Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the Chinese Embassy here Chiang Zhengcai.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave a reception for the delegation in the evening.

Japanese Local Assemblies Support Normalized Ties

SK2110054291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo October 19 (KNS-KCNA)—All local autonomous assemblies in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, including the prefectural assembly adopted as of October 15 resolutions demanding the early normalization of the Japan-Korea diplomatic relations.

On the 15th, the Nishio City Assembly adopted a written opinion addressed to the Japanese Government in demand of the early normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations. Resolutions were adopted by all 88 assemblies in the prefecture. This brings the number of those assemblies in Japan which adopted resolutions to 1,769.

After the three-party joint declaration was made public, public opinion urging the early normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations was loudly ringing out from among people in the Aichi Prefecture. Thus the prefectural assembly adopted a written opinion on October 9 last year and then resolutions were adopted one after another by city, Cho and Mura assemblies including Nagoya City.

Entering this year, in this prefecture Japan-DPRK friendship gatherings were sponsored by Chongnyon and Japanese public figures on 135 occasions. In August last the Aichi Prefectural People's Council for Promotion of the Normalization of Japan-DPRK Diplomatic Relations was formed involving Dietmen and public figures of broad segments.

The prefectural people's council has planned to send a group requesting the early normalization of the diplomatic relations to Tokyo in November and to hold a big symposium on Japan-DPRK relations.

Pass Resolutions

SK1910044591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—Written opinions and resolutions demanding the early realization of the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations were adopted in different parts of Japan, according to a KNS report from Tokyo.

Written opinions demanding the early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations were adopted by 36 assemblies including the prefectural assembly, 76.4 percent of all autonomous assemblies in Kochi Prefecture, as of the end of September.

49 assemblies in Tokushima Prefecture and 24 assemblies in Shizuoka Prefecture adopted written opinions.

Resolutions were adopted at the 14th meeting of the Nagano Prefectural People's Assembly for supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and the 59th regular meeting of the Tokushima prefectural headquarters of All Japan Confederation of Local Autonomy Government Workers' Unions.

Pochonbo Music Troupe Returns From Japan Tour

SK2110062691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 21 (KCNA)—The Pochonbo Light Music Troupe led by Choe Sang-kun, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the General

Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea, flew back Sunday after a visit to Japan.

The troupe, which raised the curtain of its premiere in Tokyo on Sept. 17 amid keen interest of Japanese and foreigners and Koreans in Japan, conducted its performances in several cities, evoking a great repercussion among broad strata of Japanese and Koreans in Japan.

Its performances in Japan demonstrated the might of chuche- orientated arts coming into full bloom under the wise leadership of our party, opened a new chapter in developing the friendship between the peoples of Korea and Japan and further inspired Korean residents in Japan with national pride and honour.

Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art, and many artistes in Pyongyang greeted at the airport the troupe which came back after its successful performances in Japan.

Death of Chongnyong Official in Japan Reported

Obituary Published

SK2110063191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 21 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland Sunday made public an obituary of Comrade Yi Mal-sang, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and chairman of the Osaka Prefectural Headquarters of Chongnyon.

The obituary said that Comrade Yi Mal-sang passed away from illness on October 19, 1991, at the age of 64 to our regret.

Born into a poor peasant family in Yongchon County, North Kyongsang Province, Comrade Yi Mal-sang worked as an office boy of a primary school at the age of 15 before crossing to Japan.

He lived with the sorrow of a young man in a colony, while doing public works in an alien land and led a worthy life only after the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song achieved the liberation of the country.

After the founding of Chongnyon, he worked hard for the Democratic National Education of Koreans in Japan at Chongnyon educational institutions including Choson University, and rendered his services as deputy director of the Educational Department and director of the Organisational Department of Chongnyon Central Standing Committee and then vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee and concurrently chairman of the Osaka Prefectural Headquarters from October, 1986.

He devoted all his efforts and wisdom to the patriotic work of Chongnyon for the prosperity and development of the socialist homeland and national reunification, upholding the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

He was awarded the "Order of Kim Il-song", the order of the national flag first class and other state orders for his distinguished services for the socialist homeland and the strengthening and development of the movement of Koreans in Japan.

Kim Il-song Sends Condolences

SK2110055391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 21 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of condolence on October 20 to Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), upon hearing the sad news that Comrade Yi Mal-sang, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee and chairman of the Osaka headquarters of Chongnyon, died of illness.

President Kim Il-song in the message expressed his deep condolences to Chairman Han Tok-su and the bereft family of the deceased, upon hearing the sad news of the death of Comrade Yi Mal- sang.

The message said that Comrade Yi Mal-sang had made devoted efforts for the strengthening and development of Chongnyon, a chuche-based organisation of overseas compatriots, and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, discharging important duties at th Chongnyon with his boundless loyalty to the DPRK, a glorious motherland, and ardent patriotism for a long time. Though he passed away the feats performed by him for the homeland and the nation will remain forever in our memory, it noted.

Meeting Sums Up 'Grand Reunification Festival'

SK1410155391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 14 (KCNA)—A meeting was held at Pyongyang Koryo hotel today to sum up the grand reunification festival of Korean youth and students in the North, the South and overseas for reaching an agreement on the proposal of reunification and for peace of the country and great national unity.

The meeting was attended by delegates of the Korean Student Committee and the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of South Korea and delegates of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the "South Korean Youth League in Japan," the Korean Student Committee in Japan, the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools and the Youth Council for National Reunification in the Americas and a delegate of Korean youth and students in China.

The meeting heard reports of delegates from the North, the South and overseas.

Kim Chang-o, delegate of the "South Korean Youth League in Japan," delivered a report on behalf of overseas Korean youth and students.

He said that the grand reunification festival of Korean youth and students in the North, the South and overseas for reaching an agreement on the proposal of reunification and for peace of the country and great national unity, which was initiated and held out of the desire of 70 million fellow countrymen to meet 1995 as the year of national reunification, marked an occasion in expanding and strengthening the movement for reunification still further.

Appreciating the grand reunification festival as a whole, he pointed out that youth and students in the North, the South and overseas decisively contributed to realising the reunification of 1995, practically proving that they are stading in the van of the reunification movement, by bringing the reunification dialogue to success for the first time after the division.

In his report Yi Kum-chol, delegate of the Korean Student Committee, recalled that preparations to successfully hold the August 15 grand reunification festival of Korean youth and students in the North, the South and overseas which was initiated by Chondaehyop had been pushed forward vigorously, smashing all the obstructive moves of separatists.

The reporter noted that the cross-country grand march squad which held a starting ceremony atop Mt. Paektu on August 7 could not go to Seoul because of the South Korean authorities' obstructions and so functions of the reunification festival due to be held in Seoul, including the reunification talks between youth and students of the North, the South and overseas and cultural and art functions, were held in Panmunjom.

The youth and student delegates of the North, the South and overseas became firmly convinced through the August 15 grand reunification festival that they are fellow countrymen who cannot live separated from each other and that if they pool their strength, they can bring earlier the reunification of the country, he stressed.

Pointing out that the August 15 grand reunification festival was a joint festival, the first of its kind in the history of the reunification movement of youth and students, he said the festival helped to further strengthen the great national unity of the youth and students of the North, the South and overseas and provided possibilities and conditions of developing their struggle to reunify the country onto a new stage.

Pak Song-hui, delegate of Chondaehyop, said in a report that the festival helped to secure a common agreement and resolution regarding the proposal for reunification through a confederacy as the most reasonable and realistic proposal for reunification with neither side of the North and the South conquering the other or being conquered by the other.

It was also confirmed at home and abroad that the settlement of the political and military issues is a preferential and important matter for the reunification of the country, she noted.

The meeting adopted a joint resolution.

Delegates of the North, the South and overseas in the joint resolution expressed their determination to wage the struggle for national reunification more vigorously with the resolution jointly adopted and agreement at the August 15 reunification talks in Panmunjom as a kernel guide.

The resolution laid stress on the following questions:

We wage widely and actively the struggle demanding the convocation of a political consultative conference for national reunification in which the government authorities, political parties and public organisations in the North and the South will participate with a view to confirming the way of reunification common to the nation by means of confederation based one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

We unfold a vigorous struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from the southern land, conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, replacemet of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States and adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South.

We actively wage a massive, open struggle for independent exchange with a viewpoint that youth and students in the North, the South and overseas agree on and decide the time, way, object and contents of independent exchange and bring it to success through Pomminnyon [Pan-National Federation for Reunification] and Pomchonghaknyon [Pan-National Alliance of Korean Youths and Students for the Country's Reunification] to be formed in the future in order to realise great national unity and accelerate national reunification.

The youth and student delegates of the North, the South and overseas called a joint press conference today upon the successful holding of the meeting to sum up the August 15 grand reunification festival.

Resolution Posted in South

SK2110104991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 21 (KCNA)—A gazette carrying a copy of the joint resolution which was adopted at a meeting to sum up the grand reunification festival of Korean youth and students in the North, the South and overseas for reaching an agreement on the proposal for reunification and for peace of the country and great national unity held in Pyongyang on October 14 was pasted up at Korea National University in Seoul on October 19, stirring up students.

Through the gazette Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] expressed full support to the joint resolution adopted at the meeting and vowed to wage a vigorous struggle to carry through the tasks laid down in the joint resolution.

The gazette said that Chondaehyop's dispatch of its delegates to the Berlin talks for the "grand reunification festival of Korean youth and students" in July and the opening of the pan-national rally are a great demonstration of the will of the fellow countrymen for reunification at home and abroad.

It called for struggle, centering on the "pan-national alliance of youth and students for the country's reunification" for support to the proposal for reunification through confederation, withdrawal of the U.S. troops and denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

South Korean Crewman Defects to North

SK1910125591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] South Korean compatriots continuously defect to the northern half of the Republic. Choe Hui-chang, 32, a crewman on the Tomiwaka belonging to the Chogwang Marine Company of Japan, defected to the North. Functionaries gave him bouquets of flowers and warmly greeted him with compatriotic feeling.

He came from Chojang-tong, So-ku, Pusan City. He lived in Mansu- tong, Namdong-ku, Inchon City, before he defected to the North.

After he graduated from elementary and middle schools, he attended an industry and technology institution in Inchon. While he was in trade with his father, he enlisted and served in the puppet army.

After serving in the puppet army, he worked in furniture plants, restaurants, and on construction sites. He has been a crewman since 1990. His mother and brothers live in South Korea.

Asked about the reason for his defection, he told a reporter: Because I have always suffered from poverty, I have longed for a world in which I can live freely with nothing to worry about. I have labored to make money to have an abundant life. However, my life has become more difficult.

Because I had heard about the northern half of the Republic since I was a boy, I began to long for it. My father, who was deceived by the U.S. soldiers' threat of atomic bombs and defected to the South, recalled the days when life was worthy of man in the northern half of the republic. He used to say that he wants to return to his home town.

The more I hated and cursed life in the South where it is difficult for people like me, who have no money and power, to live, the more I wanted to defect to the North, where my father's home town is located.

After my father died in 1989, I began to work on a ship for the purpose of defecting to the North, thus upholding my father's will. I watched for a chance to defect on several occasions. I finally succeeded in defecting to the Northern half of the Republic, where everyone lives happily under the leadership of the great President Kim Il-song and dear leader Kim Chong-il.

South's Second War on Crimes Called 'Repressive'

SK1910050291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—The director of the South Korean puppet police agency at the Home Affairs Committee of the "National Assembly" Wednesday said that he was planning to expand the peace police to 10,000 next year, according to a radio report from Seoul.

His outcry, timing to coincide with the "second war against crimes," betrays the plot of the fascist clique to commit more repressive force to the brutal suppression of the patriotic, democratic forces for reunification under the cloak of "public peace."

The No Tae-u ruling group is attempting to crack down upon and stamp out the anti-"government" forces before the "election of national assemblymen" next year, to rig up its election and extend the term of office.

KCNA Reviews Daily Pyongyang Press

15 Oct

SK1510053991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang October 15 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry a photo-accompanied report that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, successfully wound up his visit to the People's Republic of China and left Nanjing amid the warm send-off by Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and other Chinese party and state leading cadres and Nanjing citizens.

Chinese press media gave accounts of the sojourn of the great leader President Kim Il-song in Jiangsu Province and his departure from Nanjing, and the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY published an article captioned "China-Korea Friendship Is Solid Historically", according to the press.

It is reported in papers that members of the visiting song and dance ensemble of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force told reporters that President Kim Il-song's visit to China marked an important occasion in furthering the China-Korea friendship.

NODONG SINMUN says that the WPK Central Committee sent messages to foreign parties and party leaders in reply to their congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 43rd founding anniversary of the DPRK.

A bulletin was published in Ghana on the month of supporting the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo, according to the daily.

Papers report that working people in the domain of textile industry are significantly celebrating the day of textile industry.

They inform the readers that the 10th Yun I-sang concert has opened in Pyongyang.

Given in NODONG SINMUN is an account of a mass rally held in Pyongyang to welcome the delegation of the VietNam general confederation of labour.

Dailies convey repercussions of the performance of the Pochonbo light music troupe in Japan.

They carry an account of a meeting held in Pyongyang to sum up the grand reunification festival of Korean youth and students in the North, the South and overseas for reaching an agreement on the proposal of reunification and for peace of the country and great national unity and a joint resolution and so on adopted at the meeting.

Appearing in the press is an account of a meeting of students in Pyongyang held to demand that old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, be sent back to the northern half of the country from the South.

A contact was held between the chief liaison officials of both sides to the North-South high-level talks, according to dailies.

They come out with commentaries denouncing the South Korean rulers for scheming to keep the U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons in South Korea.

South Korean news of the press includes a report that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets ceaselessly staged war games aimed at increasing combat capabilities against the North.

NODONG SINMUN says that the organ of the Japan-Korea cultural interchange association published an article praising Korean-style socialism.

Public organizations in Britain and Denmark made public statemnts in support of the DPRK's admission to the United Nations, it reports.

Papers intoduce China's successes in socialist economic construction.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article exposing the U.S. imperialists' moves to establish domination and control over regions and countries of the world on the pretext of "settlement" of "regional crises".

MINJU CHOSON in a travelogue on Cuba introduces the agricultural development of the country.

16 Oct

SK1610051591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang October 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today specially edit photo-accompanied reports under the bannerline "Warm Congratulations to the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song on His Success in His Visit to China" that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, returned home, successfully winding up his visit to the People's Republic of China and tens of thousands of Pyongyangites warmly welcomed him on streets.

Carried in papers are a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song passed through China's border city of Dandong on his way back home after his visit to China and a message of thanks sent by him to Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Comrade Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, on the conclusion of his visit to China.

It is reported in papers that Chinese newspapers reported about the departure of President Kim Il-song from Nanjing and radio Beijing broadcast an article entitled "President Kim Il-song's Visit to China Will Further Promote the Friendship, Solidarity and Cooperation Between China and Korea."

NODONG SINMUN carries an editorial stressing that President Kim Il-song's visit to China was a historic event which powerfully demonstrated once again the solidity and unbreakability of the traditional Korea-China friendship and the unshakable faith and will of the two parties and peoples for the cause of socialism and consolidated them as required by the developing situation.

The Chinese magazine LIAOWANG carried an article headlined "President Kim Il-song Visits China in Golden Season of Autumn," says the paper.

Papers print a message of greetings Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, sent to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz on his reelection as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

NODONG SINMUN dedicates an article titled "Highly Important Guideline in Building the Revolutionary Literature and Art and Establishing the Way of Creating Them" to the 20th anniversary of the publication of the dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classic work "Works of Art Are the Fruits of Creative Workers' Passion and Study."

NODONG SINMUN reports that functions were held in different countries and news media of Yugoslavia, Burkina Faso and Laos published articles to mark the 46th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Seen in the paper are words of foreigners stressing that the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula is a pressing issue, and a statement issued by the chairman of the C.C., the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea urging the United States to begin the withdrawal of nuclear weapons in South Korea before anywhere else.

South Korean news columns of the press include a report that some 600 personages of South Korea issued a joint statement demanding the abolition of the "National Security Law."

In a semi-monthly review of the South Korean situation, NODONG SINMUN says that the No Tae-u ruling group resorted to the bayonet brandishing more viciously to stifle the people's struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

Papers report that Comrade Fidel Castro was reelected first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Papers introduce achievements of China in socialist economic construction.

Papers report about the situation in the Soviet Union, the frantic anti-Cuban campaign continuously kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the Egyptian president laying stress on the significance of the victory in the October war.

NODONG SINMUN carries a commentary denouncing the United States for putting off the withdrawal of airborne nuclear arms from South Korea.

The paper exposes the dangerous nature of the U.S. imperialists' new adventurous strategy of "medium intensive war."

MINJU CHOSON observes the world day of food.

17 Oct

SK1710063391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang October 17 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a communique on a Politburo meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea that discussed the results of the visit to the People's Republic of China by the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN devotes two whole pages to pictures showing President Kim Il-song's sojourn in China under the blockletter headline "Korea-China Friendship Forged in Common Struggle Against Imperialism and for Independence and Socialism Will Be Everlasting."

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an editorial titled "Korea-China Friendship Will Come Into Fuller Bloom in Common Cause of Socialism."

According to the press, President Kim Il-song's visit to China was telecast in some 150 countries and foreign news media have given wide publicity to it.

Chinese news media reported that President Kim Il-song passed through Dandong and returned home, says NODONG SINMUN.

Appearing in the daily is a letter sent to President Kim Il-song by the participants in the 15th national meeting of Japanese teachers for the study of the chuche idea.

Carried in the press are an account of a national meeting held to mark the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Down-With- Imierialism Union (DIU) by President Kim Il-song and a report delivered by Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at the meeting.

On this occasion MINJU CHOSON runs an editorial headlined "Let Us Accomplish the Revolutionary Cause of Chuche Under the Banner of DIU."

Carried in NODONG SINMUN are impressions given by Vice-President Antonio Omar Cruz of the Cuban committee for supporting Korean reunification and Secretary General Madirisha Juvenal of the African regional committee of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people after being received by President Kim Il-song. They participated in the international solidarity march for supporting Korean reunification.

The work of the dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "The Workers' Party of Korea Organizes and Guides All the Victories of Our People" was reprinted and reported abroad, says the daily.

Given in the press is an account of a Pyongyang women's meeting held to demand that old man Yi In-mo who was a war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and is now in South Korea be returned to the northern half of the country.

It is reported in the press that the third meeting of friendship between Japan and Korea and a small performance of the Pochonbo light music troupe were arranged in Kyoto and the Pyongyang Wangjaesan light music troupe on a performance tour of China gave premiere in Shanghai.

NODONG SINMUN reports that Indian scholars released a joint statement denouncing the South Korean authorities for prevnting students' visit to the North.

The daily carries news of the closure of the fourth congress of the Communist Party of Cuba and an article introducing the heroic Cuban people dynamically advancing along the road of socialism, overcoming difficulties.

The press informs the readers that Kaysone Phomvihane visited Vietnam, the Syrian president expressed Syria's position on the process of Mideast peace and the ASEAN nations agreed to form an "East Asia Economic Committee".

There is wide divergence of view on the return of Kuril Islands in the Soviet Union and Western countries do not want to give substantial "aid" to the Soviet Union, says the press.

18 Oct

SK1810055491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang October 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Comrade Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, and Comrade Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC, in reply to his message of greetings sent to the latters on the occasion of the 42nd founding anniversary of the PRC.

The meeting of the sergeant majors of the Korean People's Army [KPA] opened here on October 17, according to the paper.

The meeting is summing up the implementation of the teachings given by the great leader President Kim Il-song at the closing ceremony of the short course for the sergeant majors of the KPA on October 25, 1979, and discussing measures to strengthen companies and turn the whole army into a steel-like combat unit by further enhancing the role of the sergeant majors in compliance with the new requirements of the developing revolution.

Appearing in the paper are messages of greetings to the WPK Central Committee from Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States, the National Committee of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile on the occasion of the 46th birthday of the WPK.

The paper observes the 60th anniversary of the historic meeting held in Kwangmyong Village.

President Kim Il-song went to Kwangmyong Village, Yonggang-ri, Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, (the then Chonggang-tong, Chongsong-subcounty, Chongsong County) on October 18, 1931, and convened a meeting of political workers and chiefs of underground revolutionary organisations active in the homeland and called for organized armed struggle in his historic speech.

The paper dedicates an article to the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Down-With-Imperialism Union (DIU).

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were studied and disseminated abroad, according to the paper.

Thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to the units and families that have distinguished themselves in helping the soldiers of the People's Army mobilised in the construction of main objects, says the paper.

The paper editorially calls upon the entire people to cherish the pride and honor of being the revolutionary people and step up socialist construction.

The paper "Chuche Idea" Nos. 236 and 237 were published in Japan, says the paper.

Given in the paper is an account of a meeting of youth shock brigade members and railway constructors held to finish earlier than scheduled the electrification of Hyesan-Manpo youth railway section in the northernmost part of Korea.

Carried in the paper are a report that contact between the chief liaison officials of the two sides for inter-Korean high-level talks took place and an article demanding that North-South dialogue should be dialogue for reunification with the fourth inter-Korean high- level talks at hand.

The paper gives an account of a joint meeting of public organisations held in Pyongyang to demand that old man Yi In-mo who was a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and is now in South Korea be returned to the northern half of the country.

Carried in the paper is a statement issued to the press by Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, demanding that the United States implement its nuclear arms reduction initiative first in South Korea fraught with the greatest danger of a nuclear war at an early date.

The paper introduces "Symphonic Poem for the Love" released by the Korean film studio some time ago.

The film co-produced by Koreans in the North and the South and overseas (scenario by "Kim Il-song Prize" winner Yi Chun-ku and Hwang Sok-yong and direction by merited artist Ko Hak-nim and music by Yun I-sang and "Kim Il-song Prize" winner Yi Chong-o) reveals in all nakedness the hypocritical nature of U.S. imperialism and the anti-national criminal acts of the South Korean rulers as well as the fighting spirit of the participants in the Kwangju popular uprising held in South Korea 10 odd years ago and the lessons drawn at the cost of blood.

A symposium on Yun I-sang music was held here, says the paper.

The paper informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged ground and aerial war exercises against the North.

The South Korean news columns of the paper include reports that the gazetteers of Songgyunkwan University vowed to wage a powerful struggle against the anti-reunification moves of the No Tae-u ruling group and religious organisations in South Korea pressed for the cutback of the military expenditure in the budget.

The foreigners who visited our country are speaking highly of the efforts of President Kim Il-song who is devoting his whole life for the sake of the people, says the paper.

Comrade Jiang Zemin called upon the scientists of China to follow Quan Xuesen and Comrade Fidel Castro in his speech at the closing function of the fourth congress of the Communist Party of Cuba declared that Cuba will defend socialism at any cost, according to the paper.

The spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office under the State Council of China denounced the divisionist act of the "Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party", Latin American countries demanded a lift of the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba and the chairman of the 46th U.N. General Assembly session urged the international community to continue to put pressure upon South Africa, says the paper.

The paper reports that the president of Zambia condemned the Western interference in the internal affairs of his country.

The paper informs the readers of the worsening economic situation in the Soviet Union.

The paper in an article says that the U.S. munition monopolies continue to expand the military industry and increase the production of arms.

South Korea

Ministry Refuses To Confirm Report on Pullout

SK2010072391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0702 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 20 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry on Saturday refused to confirm if the WASHINGTON POST report on nuclear withdrawal from South Korea was true.

A ministry spokesman said he did not know anything about the report. The POST reported on Saturday that the U.S. administration had decided to remove all types of nuclear weapons from South Korea to press for North Korea's opening of its nuclear capability to outside inspection.

"It is true that President No Tae-u met with U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz during his visit to the United Nations last month, but I can't tell what was discussed at that time," the spokesman said.

"It is my understanding that the two countries will closely consult each other further on major security issues including nuclear arms in Korea."

Official: 'No Knowledge'

SK2110084691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0741 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States will discuss denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and maintaining the U.S. nuclear umbrella when their foreign and defense ministers meet in Seoul next month.

They are expected to declare that the U.S. commitment to Korea's defense will not change despite U.S. President George Bush's nuclear initiative.

On Monday, a government official said he had no knowledge of a report in THE WASHINGTON POST that the United States had decided last week to remove all nuclear weapons, including air-delivered warheads, from South Korea.

Consultations on maintaining the nuclear umbrella over Korea were needed if the report was true, he said.

High-level Korean officials have mixed views.

Some say the nuclear umbrella will be maintained by strategic weapons, such as inter-continental ballistic missiles based in the United States, and others say South Korea is automatically protected as air-launched nuclear weapons will remain here.

The two countries have stated a common position championing continuation of the nuclear umbrella in a joint communique at the end of the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) every year.

A systematic device guaranteeing more solid nuclear protection would become necessary if all U.S. nuclear weapons were removed from Korea, he said.

The Korean Government was notified by the United States that it would continue to cover Korea with its nuclear umbrella, he said, declining to go into details.

The two countries have agreed in principle that the second phase of the U.S. troop reduction in Korea will be carried out separately from the nuclear withdrawal. The agreement came in a meeting in Hawaii on Oct. 7-9 to prepare for the annual SCM.

Nuclear Umbrella To Remain

SK1910114791 Seoul YONHAP in English 1010 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 19 (YONHAP)—The United States has notified South Korea that it would continue to protect South Korea under its nuclear umbrella, a high-ranking government source said Saturday.

The source was referring to a recent WASHINGTON POST report that the U.S. administration decided to withdraw all tactical nuclear weapons, including air-launched ones, from South Korea.

Korea and the United States are having close consultations when it comes to matters of the U.S. forces stationing in Korea, he said.

The sources hinted that the United States might express its position concerning the issue of keeping South Korea under its nuclear umbrella in the 23rd Korea-U.S. security consultation meeting (SCM) slated in Seoul Nov. 20-22.

"The two countries have stated a common position championing the continuation of the nuclear umbrella in a joint communique at the end of the SCM meeting every year," he said.

Dailies Comment on Report

SK2110090491

[Editorial report] CHOSON ILBO, HANGUK ILBO, SEOUL SINMUN, and KYONGHYANG SINMUN carry articles by reporters on 20 October commenting on THE WASHINGTON POST's 19 October report on the U.S. administration's decision to completely withdraw nuclear weapons from the ROK.

CHOSON ILBO carries a 100-word report on page 1 on the ROK Government's reaction to THE WASHINGTON POST's report, saying in full:

"In connection with THE WASHINGTON POST's 19 October report that the U.S. nuclear weapons will be completely withdrawn from the ROK, an official concerned in the ROK Foreign Ministry said in an official commentary: 'Kim Chong-hwi, presidential assistant for foreign and national security affairs, and Mr. Wolfowitz, under secretary of defense, met in New York during President No Tae-u's visit to the United Nations.' He also said: 'I cannot elaborate on what they discussed during the meeting. However, I do not know anything about this newspaper's report.'

This official concerned also said that 'THE WASHINGTON POST, quoting an unidentified U.S. Government source, reported on 12 October that the U.S. Government had informed the ROK Government of its decision to keep the 60 aircraft-loaded tactical nuclear weapons at the U.S. base at Kunsan in the ROK,' adding: 'Our government has not been notified of this, and the current report by THE WASHINGTON POST appears to have been intended to reverse its previous report.'

This official also said that 'the neither confirm nor deny policy on nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula is still valid.'"

CHOSON ILBO also carries a 1,000-word article by Washington correspondent Chong Hae-yong on page 3 entitled "Background of the U.S. Decision To Withdraw Nuclear Weapons From the ROK." It says that if all the U.S. nuclear weapons are withdrawn from the ROK, it is expected, "the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, China, and other countries whose interests are related to security in northeast Asia will increase their pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons development program and allow international nuclear inspections." Noting the possibility that North Korea will sign the nuclear safeguards accord under pressure, the article says: "Still, Kim Il-song may delay the ratification process before he signs the accord. Even if North Korea signs the accord, it may refuse to give the International Atomic Energy Agency a list of its nuclear facilities to be inspected. In doing so, North Korea may demand that the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from the ROK be verified subjectively." Analyzing the U.S. administration's decision, the article also says that "the United States made this decision in the firm belief that even without its nuclear weapons in the ROK, it can keep its security commitments to the ROK and deter North Korea's provocation." Noting that the complete withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons will provide an opportunity for the North and South to "promote mutual trust and ease military tension" and to "pursue arms control," the article says: "Prospects for improving North-South and Japanese-North Korean relations will become bright. Furthermore, the United States is likely to upgrade the level of contact with North Korea to an ambassadorial level, to hold such contact also in the United Nations, to open its satellite communications to North Korea, and to ease restrictions on money remittance to North Korea."

HANGUK ILBO carries a 1,200-word article by reporter Han Ki-pong on page 3 entitled "Background of the U.S. Decision To Withdraw Nuclear Weapons From the ROK—Views From Seoul." After elaborating on THE WASHINGTON POST's two conflicting reports and on the ongoing ROK-U.S. negotiations on the timing of the withdrawal of the tactical weapons, which will be "determined by North Korea's signing of the nuclear safeguards accord and its acceptance of nuclear inspections," the article says: "However, it is expected that, in addition to the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from the ROK, North Korea will also demand that the United States promise not to launch a preemptive nuclear strike and abandon its policy of providing a nuclear umbrella to the ROK." Therefore, it appears difficult to hastily assess the complete withdrawal of the nuclear weapons from the ROK."

SEOUL SINMUN and KYONGHYANG SINMUN also carry respectively a 1,000-word article and an 800-word article on page 5 and page 2 that say that the withdrawal will provide an opportunity to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

Scientists To Aid U.S. Supercollider Project

SK2010004391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] South Korea will contribute some $50 million to the United States' $8.3 billion Superconducting Supercollider (SSC) project by supplying scientists, the Science and Technology Ministry said yesterday.

The nation is contemplating dispatching 240 scientists to the United States to help construct the device during 1992-1999, a ministry official said.

A 10-member government delegation will leave for the United States Oct. 29 to discuss with U.S. Government officials about Korea's participation in the project.

The mission, headed by Prof. Kim Che-hwan, a physics professor of Seoul National University will meet with officials at the U.S. Energy Department, the Fermi Institute and General Dynamics, the official said.

The SSC, to be built in Waxahachi, Texas, is a device for basic research aimed at solving the long mystery of how the universe was created, the official said.

The U.S. Government has solicited the participation of advanced Western countries in the project, he said.

South Korea first received such a request in 1988, and decided to join the project after receiving a personal letter from U.S. President George Bush last June, he said.

Group To Visit U.S., Defend Driftnet Fishing

SK2110095291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—The government plans to send a delegation to the United States and the United Nations to seek their understanding on South Korea's need for drift net fishing in open seas.

The six-member delegation led by Yun Ok-yong, administrator of the Fisheries Administration, will leave for the United States on Oct. 23 for a seven-day visit.

The delegation will meet with ranking officials of the U.S. State and Commerce Departments to explain the adverse effect a U.S. proposed ban on drift net fishing will have on South Korea.

The United States submitted a resolution to the United Nations on Oct. 9, calling for a total and unconditional ban on drift net fishing in open seas from July 1992. The U.S. Congress is also deliberating a legislation aimed at restricting imports of fisheries and other products from the countries allowing drift net fishing.

South Korea has some 140 drift net fishing vessels operating in the northern Pacific. If their operation is stopped, more than 4,000 fishermen will lose their jobs and the nation's fishing industry will need more than 140 billion won to convert to other methods of fishing, officials said.

Government Welcomes Middle East Peace Talks

SK1910032791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea welcomed Saturday the announcement of Middle East peace talks Oct. 30, calling it a historic starting point for resolving the regional confrontation and the Palestinian question.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho Won-il said in a statement that his government lauded efforts by the United States and the Soviet Union in arranging the peace conference and the decisions by Israel, Syria and Palestine to participate in the conference.

"We hope that all parties engage in the negotiation in cooperative and conciliatory spirit and make the conference an opportunity to settle peace and stability in the Middle East," the statement said.

Government To Hold Aviation Talks With PRC

SK2110095791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0828 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—China and South Korea may discuss the opening of a direct air route between Seoul and Beijing here at the end of the month in the first air talks between the two nations, Chang Pu-si, director-general of the Transportation Ministry's Aviation Bureau, said Monday.

Chang said he had agreed with Chinese aviation officials, including Jiang Zhuping, director-general of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), to hold the talks when he attended the 27th conference of directors-general of civil aviation of the Asia-Pacific region in Beijing Oct. 14-18.

Aviation sources expect direct Seoul-Beijing flights to begin by the end of the year.

Chang said, however, he was not sure if the aviation talks would produce an agreement on the opening of a Seoul-Beijing route this year because it was closely entwined with the normalization of Seoul-Beijing diplomatic relations and Korea-China economic cooperation.

Chartered flights between the two nations recently resumed.

Asiana Airlines sent a chartered jet from Seoul to Tianjin on Oct. 16 and will send another on Oct. 30. CAAC plans to fly a chartered plane from Tianjin to Seoul on Wednesday [23 October].

African, East European Countries Seek Loans

SK1910001291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0211 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—Twenty African and East European countries are seeking long-term, low-interest loans from Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF).

"There has been a sudden increase in the number of countries asking for EDCF loans," a Finance Ministry official said Friday. "They include Kenya, Egypt, Jordan, Poland and Bulgaria."

The government has approved EDCF loans to 10 countries including Nigeria for 11 projects so far, said the official, who declined to be identified.

Although there has not been any loan approval for East European countries, the fund is expected to extend a five million U.S. dollar loan to Bulgaria soon to help finance a color television assembly plant there, the official said.

Among other former communist countries, Poland is seeking a 50 million dollar loan to build a telephone switchboard system while Mongolia is trying to borrow 20 million dollars, he said.

So far, Korea has approved loans totaling 100 million dollars with an additional loans amounting to 300 million dollars being sought by 20 countries, he said.

"The fund will have to scrape the bottom if it approves all the applications," the official said, adding:

"This kind of phenomenon is occurring not only because our economy got stronger but also because our economic strength has been over-publicized overseas."

The EDCF was formed in 1988 in order to boost the nation's economic cooperation with developing countries. As of Aug. 31, the fund had 243,400 million won (324.5 million dollars).

An EDCF loan carries an annual interest rate of 3.3 percent. It usually is extended over a maximum 20 years to help the borrowers to buy industrial plants and equipment from Korea.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

SK2010010791 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister of Lithuania Gediminas Vagnorius flew into Seoul yesterday for a three-day official visit.

He is accompanied by four officials including Vilius Valdisis, governor of the Bank of Lithuania, and Vytenis Aleskaitis, international economy minister.

Taxation Agreement Initialled With Czechoslovakia

SK2110094391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—Korean companies doing business in Czechoslovakia will receive the same treatment and protection as Czech companies soon, a Finance Ministry official said Monday.

Kim Yong-chin, assistant minister for tax affairs, met with Vaclav Gramnetvauer [name as received], a senior official in charge of taxation at the Czechoslovakian Finance Ministry, in Prague last week and they initialled a double-taxation avoidance agreement, the official said.

Under the agreement, firms of the two countries receive equal tax treatment and reciprocal protection, and limited tax rates apply to profits from dividends, interest and royalties, he said.

The agreement will take effect upon exchange of letters of ratification by the two governments.

Minister's Visit to SRV, Laos May Improve Ties

SK2110022291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0125 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Bangkok, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on said Sunday he expected an official visit to Vietnam and Laos this week to set the stage for normalizing relations with China.

"It's desirable to improve relations with Chinese neighbors before entering diplomatic relations with Beijing," Pak said on arrival in Bangkok. He will be the first South Korean government official to visit the two communist nations since 1975.

Rapprochement with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia would be a big contribution to the advancement of Korean unification, he said.

The former presidential adviser on relations with communist countries is expected to touch base on diplomatic issues as well as signing sports exchange agreements during his weeklong visit.

Pak was to leave Monday for Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Viang Chan. He returns to Bangkok on Oct. 27.

He said he had declined an invitation from Phnom Penh because of the timing. Cambodia is to conclude a peace agreement in Paris on Wednesday.

PRC 'Rejected' North's Request To Delay Ties

SK1910131891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1302 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Beijing, Oct. 19 (YONHAP)—China virtually rejected North Korea's request that it delay normalization of its relations with South Korea during the recent visit of North Korean President Kim Il-song, it was learned here Saturday.

China, in the meantime, strongly urged that North Korea pursue a open-door policy and promote personnel and material exchanges with South Korea, a Western source in Beijing said.

During a meeting with Kim, China's Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin made it clear that the establishment of relations between China and South Korea was "China's internal problem," rejecting Kim's request, the source said.

The source said that the Chinese leaders invited Kim's son and heir-apparent Kim Chong-il to visit China to observe achievements of China's open-door policy.

Kim himself expressed sympathy in principle for the need to open its society but showed disapproval citing various internal problems.

Chinese leaders also refused to accept Kim's proposal to form a socialist alliance among China, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba, according to the source.

The Chinese leaders stressed that the alliance, if formed, has no actual benefit because Vietnam is pushing ahead with opening and reform policies and that Cuba is geographically too far away.

Instead, they persuaded Kim to follow China's openness policy.

The Chinese leaders urged that North Korea accept international inspection of nuclear facilities but Kim reiterated that Pyongyang would accept international nuclear inspection only when the United States pulled out nuclear weapons from South Korea and guaranteed it would not use nuclear weapons against North Korea.

Another Western observer here said a full diplomatic tie-up between Beijing and Seoul would be realized in accordance with the progress of the North Korea-Japan normalization talks.

He said the exchange between South Korea and China would be expanded on the occasion of Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's visit to Seoul next month to attend the ministerial conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Kim Il-song Planning 4-5 More Years in Power

SK1910130991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1239 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Beijing, Oct. 19 (YONHAP)—North Korean President Kim Il-song hinted during his recent visit here that he was determined to stay in power for four or five more years from now on, a diplomatic source said Saturday.

The source quoted Kim as telling Chinese leaders, "I will continue to be in active service for four to five years from now on. I will retire after making the people live well."

He said Kim seems to have decided against handing over the reins of government early apparently because he had been so shocked by the collapse of the communism in the Soviet Union as to worry about the repercussions that might be created by the succession of his son, [Kim] Chong-il, to power.

North, South Prime Ministers' Talks Previewed

SK2110022391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0113 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—A 90-member South Korean delegation will enter North Korea on Tuesday morning for the fourth round of prime ministers' talks on agreements for non- aggression and improvement of relations, and possibly nuclear issues.

South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, making his debut at the talks as he was appointed in May, will lead the negotiations Wednesday and Thursday with his North Korean counterpart, Yon Hyong- muk.

No agreements were reached in the three previous rounds. South Korea insists the two sides first sign a basic agreement on improving inter-Korean relations. North Korea counters they need to adopt a non-aggression pact before the basic agreement.

South and North Korea, divided by a heavily fortified border since 1945, began high-level talks in September last year.

South Korean officials said they will change their position at this week's talks by suggesting that non-aggression, relations, inter-Korean communication, travel and trade agreements be discussed together in one package.

Seoul will also suggest that the contents of the agreements be discussed without deciding their names or number, the officials said.

South Korean President No Tae-u and other ranking officials have been dropping hints that Seoul is willing to discuss signing a non- aggression pact at the Pyongyang talks, the major stumbling block at the past negotiations.

Government sources here are firm that the pact must in no way be linked to the withdrawal of U.S. troops stationed in the South.

South Korea said it was willing to discuss nuclear issues with the North.

Recent reports said America will remove all of its tactical weapons, including air-delivered ones, from Korea. Observers say the decision is aimed at pressing North Korea to immediately sign a nuclear safeguards accord and ultimately give up nuclear weapons development.

North Korea is yet to react to the reports that the United States is planning a complete pullout of its nuclear arsenal in the South.

South Korean delegates also take with them proposals for opening each other's living rooms to television and radio broadcasts from across the border, cross-border visits by families separated during the 1950-1953 Korean war and an exchange of liaison offices between Seoul and Pyongyang.

The South Korean delegation will return via Panmunjom on Friday.

Agenda, Plans for Talks Viewed

SK2110093091 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 21 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] The government plans to concentrate efforts on producing "a comprehensive agreement" containing practical measures for helping the North and South adopt a nonaggression declaration and improve their relations at the fourth round of the South-North high-level talks scheduled to be reopened in Pyongyang on 22 October.

Such a plan by the government is a departure from its previous strategy for talks with the North, the upshot of which is to adopt a nonaggression declaration and agreement on visits, communications, and trade within the framework of "the basic agreement on improving relations between the South and North." As a result, the South and North likely will be able to narrow at least the differences in opinion on what must be done first and what will follow with regard to reaching agreement.

On 20 October, a high-ranking government official said: The government will be flexible when it comes to the name and number of agreements. Its negotiating stance, however, is that it will keep discussing the issues with an emphasis on what has been agreed upon.

Concerning the adoption of a nonaggression declaration, the most controversial issue between the South and North, the government is going to insist on including in the declaration a clause stating that the "declaration will not have any impact on the bilateral or multilateral treaties and agreements already signed by the two sides with other countries."

This is a step aimed at circumventing North Korea's intention to link the adoption of the declaration to the withdrawal of U.S. troops, an issue over which the two sides are expected to stand at loggerheads.

The government is also reported to be planning to hammer out practical agreements on exchange and cooperation, including visits, communications, and trade, that can be put into action immediately rather than ones that merely symbolize the principle.

At the same time, if North Korea takes up the nuclear issue, which it will most likely raise at the next round of talks, the government plans to make it clear once again that the inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities, which North Korea should agree to as part of its international duty, has nothing to do with the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The government intends to avoid discussing North Korea's human rights issues, which are not on the agenda. However, if North Korea brings up any issues that are deemed to be our internal affairs and have nothing to do with the agenda items, the government will take on North Korea's act head-on.

Meantime, the South side's seven-member delegation headed by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, 38-member suite, and 50 reporters, a total of 90 people, are expected to enter the North, passing through Panmunjom on the morning of 22 October.

* Biography of North's Nuclear Expert Yi Sung-ki

912C0281A Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean No 8,Aug 91 pp 296-314

[Article by reporter Kang In-son: "Dr. Yi Sung-ki, Godfather of North Korea's Nuclear Development and World-Renowned Discoverer of Vinylon—His Life in the North and the South"]

[Excerpts]**Friendship With Former Prime Minister Yi Han-ki**

Yi Sung-ki: Served as dean of the College of Engineering, Seoul University, shortly before the Korean war; majored in synthetic fiber at Kyoto Imperial University in Japan and became a chemical expert; crossed over into North Korea and discovered vinylon; awarded a Lenin Prize in 1962; taught at Moscow University as visiting lecturer; appointed as first director of North Korea's Nuclear Energy Research Institute.

To Sang-nok: Majored in physics at Tokyo University; served as dean of the Science and Engineering Department, Kyongsong [Seoul] University; currently member of the North Korean Nuclear Energy Commission.

Chong Kun: Majored in nuclear physics at Moscow University; published five to six papers on nuclear energy; member of the North Korean Academy of Sciences.

Yo Kyong-ku: Nephew of the late Yo Un-hyong (pen name Mong Yang); majored in chemistry at Waseda University; a liquid propellant research member in the research project team on a Japanese version of the (German made) V-2 rocket in the closing days of World War II.

Choe Hak-kun: A nuclear expert who majored in chemistry at Moscow University and worked in the Dvina Nuclear Research Base; served as minister of the Atomic Power Industry Ministry, newly inaugurated into the North Korean State Administration Council in 1986.

The above-named persons are the North Korean scientists to whom our military intelligence authorities pay attention as core members in the process of nuclear development in North Korea.

Of them, Yi Sung-ki, To Sang-nok, and Yo Kyong-ku were acquaintances before they crossed over into North Korea. Yi Sung-ki had maintained an intimate relationship with Yo Kyong-kyu since they were in Japan, and Yi Sung-ki probably met To Sang-nok at Kyongsong University after liberation.

To Sang-nok returned to Korea two or three years before liberation after graduating from Tokyo University, and taught at Songdo Middle School in Pusan for about a year before becoming a professor at Hsin King [Xin Jing] University in Manchuria. He returned home after liberation and served as professor in the physics department of Kyongsong University.

Yo Kyong-ku is said to have participated in Japan's V-2 rocket development project in Okinawa, Japan. In this project, he took charge of research into an alcoholic propellant. He played such a vital role that it was said in those days that without him the V-2 rocket development project would get nowhere.

Yi Sung-ki, who crossed over into North Korea immediately after the Korean war broke out on 25 June 1950, won worldwide fame by discovering vinylon, a synthetic fiber made from coal. Among the aforementioned scientists, international attention is focused on Yi Sung-ki as the person who is in charge of Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center in North Korea as its first director and as the one who formulated North Korea's basic strategy for the development of nuclear weapons. A core member who was involved in the nuclear development project in the days of President Pak Chong-hui said, "I have a strong belief that Yi Sung-ki engrafted in the mind of Kim Il-song the idea of developing an atomic bomb."

Born in 1905, Yi Sung-ki is 86 years old. His record of activity in Japan and South Korea is quite impressive, and what is more, he is known to have considerable influence in North Korea as a doyen of science. However, except for his brief personal history entered in the "North Korean Who's Who," little was known about his background, and information on his relatives living in South Korea remained obscure. However, contrary to the general belief, the author's recent survey has confirmed the fact that Yi Sung-ki's sisters are still alive in South Korea.

Yi Sung-ki, the only son in the family, had six sisters, and two of the younger ones, Yi Se-ki (79) and Yi Kye-nam (77), still live in South Korea.

Yi Kye-nam is the mother of Paek Chung-hyon, professor of international law at Seoul University, and Professor Paek is one of those who remember the life of Dr. Yi Sung-ki in his youth.

In addition, former Prime Minister Yi Han-ki (74) is a relative of Dr. Yi Sung-ki and they have maintained close ties from their childhood. Professor Paek Chung-hyon said, "both of us come from the Yi clan in Tamyang, South Cholla Province, and in a broader sense, they come from the same family."

According to Yi Kye-nam, younger sister of Dr. Yi Sung-ki, "the relationship between former Prime Minister Yi han-ki and Dr. Yi Sung-ki was one of brotherliness as if they were real brothers."

Yi Kye-nam said: "My brother Sung-ki loved Yi Han-ki very much from the latter's childhood. He used to say that Yi Han-ki was doing well in school and was so bright that someday he would become somebody. Finding in Yi Han-ki an outstanding younger brother in the same Yi clan, Yi Sung-ki had a special interest in him. When they came back to their hometown during school vacations, they moved around together, helping each other.

"My brother exercised a great influence on Yi Han-ki's decision to go to Japan for study. He said to Yi Han-ki, 'it is meaningless to receive education in the country which is under the colonial rule. Only when you go into the den of the colonists and receive education from them is it possible to rescue your country.' I understand that when Yi Han-ki went to Tokyo to take the entrance examination to a high school, he stayed with my brother in his boarding house."

Godfather of North Korea's Nuclear Development

It was early last year that Dr. Yi Sung-ki became a subject of discussion in the South Korean press as the protagonist in the process of nuclear development in North Korea.

Despite the difference of opinion as to the question how far Dr. Yi Sung-ki is involved in the process of nuclear development in North Korea, all are in agreement that he is the godfather of the organization and personnel engaged in the development of nuclear weapons.

Yi Pyong-ho, professor emeritus at the KAIST [Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology] Nuclear

Engineering Department, explains the role Yi Sung-ki has been playing in the process of nuclear development in North Korea as follows:

"Yi Sung-ki is at the summit of the North Korean scientific community. Whomever he selects as essential for the development of a nuclear weapon and asks for cooperation would find it difficult to refuse. As the world-renowned chemist who discovered vinylon, he mastered the principles involved in the development of nuclear weapons. It should be noted that the reprocessing process of extracting plutonium, material used in nuclear weapons, is basically a chemical process."

Dr. Yi Tae-kyu (89), professor emeritus at KAIST, and Dr. Yi Chae-song (67) at the Seoul University Department of Chemical Engineering, said: "His speciality being chemical engineering, the possibility that Dr. Yi Sung-ki directly participated in the development of nuclear weapons is not great. Nevertheless, he might have given full play to his ability as administrator."

On the other hand, some people contend that Yi Sung-ki must have actively participated in the nuclear weapons development program. A former government official who studied under Yi Sung-ki at the Seoul University College of Engineering, and who played a vital role in the nuclear development process in South Korea in the 1970's, went so far as to say that he thinks North Korea's idea of developing nuclear weapons originally came from Yi Sung-ki.

Kyoto Imperial University was at the pinnacle of nuclear physics in Japan when Yi Sung-ki attended it; therefore it may be induced that he might have had a keen interest in the field of study associated with nuclear energy. [passage omitted]

The author tried to confirm the rumor that Professor Paek Chung-hyon of the Seoul University School of Law, is a cousin of Dr. Yi Sung-ki. In the course of the survey, it was established that Yi Kye-nam, Professor Paek's mother, is a sister of Dr. Yi Sung-ki. She resides in the United States, where most of her eight children live, but she recently returned to Korea temporarily for health reasons.

In the past Yi Kye-nam avoided talking about Dr. Yi Sung-ki, who crossed over into north Korea. Persuaded by Professor Paek, who insisted that "we need to leave some record about him," she recorded on a tape what she remembers about her brother and handed the tape over to the author.

Yi Sung-ki was born in Tamyang, South Cholla Province, in 1905. He was the only boy among the seven children begotten by Yi Pyong-song. He had three older sisters and three younger sisters. His parents were quite influential and affluent in Tamyang and very enthusiastic about the education of their children.

Yi Sung-ki first attended Kochang High School. In those days, the children of a noble man, even if they were not yet married, wore their hair in a topknot when they attained their majority. But, while he was attending the Kochang High School, the government issued an ordinance banning topknots. So, he returned home to Tamyang, where he learned Chinese classics from a private tutor. Nevertheless, he wanted to go back to school.

His father wanted to heed the desire of his son, but his grandfather objected, causing a family feud. In the end, his father decided to let his son do what he wanted, and had his son transferred to Chungang High School in Seoul. [passage omitted]

Yi Sung-ki was one year junior to Dr. Yi Tae-kyu. In those days, there were 30 or more Korean students in Kyoto Imperial University and all of them were said academically outstanding.

It was when he was suffering from tuberculosis that he met Miss Hwang, his future wife. According to Dr. Yi Tae-kyu, Yi Sung-ki became acquainted with the nurse while he frequented the hospital and finally married her. In his hometown in Korea, he had a wife and two daughters. But he cohabited with Hwang. His first wife was sickly and is said to have died subsequently.

At about the time he graduated from Kyoto Imperial University in 1931, the world was in recession. His academic adviser, although he recognized Yi sung-ki's outstanding scholarship, did not arrange a job for him. He agonized over his sorry state as an intellectual from a colony, asking himself "what is the use of being an outstanding graduate?" [passage omitted]

Success in Developing Synthetic Fiber No 1 in 1939

Yi Sung-ki read a research paper at the 1932 annual Osaka industrial chemistry forum, and the reaction to the paper was favorable. As a consequence, he was able to begin "research into liquid cellulose conductors in terms of electric permeability."

As he devoted himself to the study of fibers, the field in which he was most interested, the research proceeded smoothly. His academic adviser, who had just returned from a trip to Europe, began to show interest in this research. The professor made arrangements for him to devote himself to this research at Koeisha.

In the following year, he was transferred to "Tokyo Institute for Industrial Experimentation," where he worked at his academic adviser's office as a research member. He had been doing the research work for about three or four years before being appointed as an instructor at the "Japan Chemical Fiber Research Institute," newly established in Tokyo University.

Thus his research environment had improved to a certain degree. But, during the five years following his graduation from the university, he had to work at three different research institutes. His Japanese fellow graduates from Kyoto Imperial University were placed in well established research institutes from the beginning, and about the time they become assistant professors, he barely became a research instructor.

When the Japan Chemical Fiber Research Institute moved to the Takaki Chemical Research Institute in 1938, Yi Sung-ki was transferred to the Takaki Institute, where he was assigned a large research office with its own address.

However, in that year the results of a nylon research project were published in the United States, touting that a gossamer-like thread is as strong as steel.

This immediately alarmed the Japanese silk yarn industry. In those days Japan's silk yarn production accounted for about 80 percent of the total silk yarn output of the whole world. The amount of women's silk stockings exported to the United States alone amounted to $400 million. Now that the United States had succeeded in developing nylon as a substitute for silk yarn, this was tantamount to a sentence of hanging for the Japanese silk yarn industry.

Under these circumstances, Yi Sung-ki's synthetic fiber research drew more attention than ever before. All fiber researchers pooled their efforts, and as a result, they succeeded in extracting the first synthetic fiber from coal in October 1939.

Japan ballyhooed this success, saying "the Japanese fiber industry" had reached the world's advanced class. But Yi Sung-ki's name was buried under the name of "Great Japan."

He came back home with tears in his eyes, with the thought that "after all, I have permitted myself to be taken advantage of by the Japanese." His wife had waited anxiously to congratulate her husband when he came home, but seeing him crying, she cried with him.

In the summer of 1944, the situation in the Pacific began to turn for worse for Japan. He hurriedly sent his family to Korea. In those days he was engaged in polyvinyl research under orders of the Japanese War Ministry.

One summer day in 1945, he was chatting with a certain Pak, a fellow scientist, at the latter's home, when a gendarme of Korean descent entered the room like a bolt from the blue.

The gendarme confessed to them, "I am doing this kind of job to earn a living, but I am troubled by pangs of conscience." Yi Sung-ki and Pak did not know who the intruder was; but at his confession of the pangs of conscience, they told him that Japan would soon be defeated. The gendarme left the house with the words: "When Japan is defeated, I would like to quit my gendarme's job and study science under you, sir."

A few days later, on 22 July, when Yi Sung-ki was about to have dinner, he was told that some visitors were waiting outside to see him. So, he went out and saw two gendarmes at the door. One of them was the same young man who had visited only a few days before and confessed he felt "pangs of conscience." They came to arrest Yi.

Yi Sung-ki was locked up in a jail in the Osaka Gendarmerie, where he underwent interrogation. He was asked various questions, such as "why do you not explain scientifically how Japan is about to be defeated?" and ended up being charged with 22 offenses.

Returns Home Upon Liberation

When the Soviet Union declared war against Japan on 9 August, the treatment of Yi reached the worst point. He was forced to kneel down for hours on end, not being allowed to wash his face or brush his teeth. Each morning and evening, he was fed with nothing but white and sweet potatoes and water.

This made him regret that he had not had his wife take his vinylon research papers with her when she left Japan for Korea. He thought that if he had done so, somebody else might succeed in producing vinylon should he die in jail.

His trial was set for 13 August, but on that day he heard nothing about the trial. Every morning at dawn, a gendarme used to come to his jail ordering him to sit upright, but on the mornings of the 14th and 15th, no gendarmes appeared.

Looking out the window at 1100 on 15 August, he saw gendarmes taking away American prisoners. He thought they were going to kill the Americans.

At about 1500 on the same day, the gendarme in charge of his interrogation, entered his cell weeping and said, "things have turned out as you expected, so, you no longer have to stay here." Thus he left the jail.

After three months of preparation, he went back to Korea in November 1945. Dr. Yi Tae-kyu and Dr. Pak Chol-chae, both of whom worked at Kyoto University, returned with him. Upon their return home, all three participated in preparations to reopen Keijo Imperial University, which remained temporarily closed after liberation, under the new name of Kyongsong University. [passage omitted]

Unhappy Relation With Syngman Rhee

Dr. Yi Sung-ki protested in vain against the military government's order to vacate some of the Kyongsong University buildings. He argued: "In defeated Japan, the U.S. military wanted to use the Tokyo Imperial University as its headquarters, but the Japanese refused to surrender it to the end. Why then do you want us, not a defeated country, to vacate the school building?"

On 15 December 1945, one month after Yi Sung-ki returned home from Japan, the Kyongsong University College of Science and Engineering opened. The school had applied chemistry, mining, and metallurgical departments. Harry B. Ansted [name as published] was the first president of Kyongsong University under the U.S. military government.

In those days the faculty of the applied chemistry department included Dr. Yi Sung-ki, Kim Tong-il (graduate of the Tokyo Imperial University Applied Chemistry Department), Yo Kyong-ku (graduate of the Waseda University Applied Chemistry Department), Chon Pung-chin (graduate of the Osaka Imperial University Applied Chemistry Department), and Yi Se-hun (graduate of the Tokyo Imperial University Applied Chemistry Department).

Kyongsong University turned out its first group of graduates on 3 July 1946, but these graduates became the first and last graduating class of Kyongsong University, as a result of the promulgation of the "National Seoul University Plan" on 22 August in the same year.

The national university plan, which was formulated in the process designed to change the school system after the American model, called for establishing a new four-year university by merging existing professional schools into Kyongsong University. This plan encountered stiff opposition from the then students and professors of Kyongsong University.

Not a single day passed without an on-campus demonstration.

In the middle of this vortex, Yo Kyong-ku called on Dr. Yi Sung-ki to brief him on the situation in North Korea. According to Yi Sung-ki's memoirs, "I did not know much about the North Korean situation, nor did I have the guts or the thought of crossing over into the North; so I was undecided."

As the on-campus confusion aggravated, Yi Sung-ki went back to his hometown with his family. The national university plan went into effect as of 1 October 1946.

Yi Sung-ki returned home with the thought of tilling the land. But, "the thought of industrializing the process of vinylon production someday" kept burning in his heart, and there was no way to muffle his frustration.

Vinylon production begins with making carbide from coal and limestone. Polyvinyl acetate is made by synthesizing vinyl acetate in carbide, and then polyvinyl alcohol is extracted by melting polyvinyl acetate in methanol. Vinylon is polyvinyl alcohol in fiber form. This fiber is strong and tough, but its weakness is its coarseness and low heat resistance.

Vinylon is a fiber similar to polyester extracted from petrochemicals. Vinylon was discovered ahead of polyester, but with the discovery of polyester, vinylon was weeded out in the end because it was by far inferior in quality compared with polyester.

In South Korea, Mijin Chemical Company was producing vinylon in 1959, but unable to compete with polyester, it had to suspend vinylon production.

Nevertheless, the possibility of mass production raised high hopes that vinylon would solve the problem of fabric shortage.

Dr. Yi's dream was to push ahead with his research, which had ended in the laboratory, and industrialize the whole process, even including the process of manufacturing threads and fabrics.

But under the circumstances prevailing in those days, he labored under the constant fear that his life-long research work might come to naught without seeing the light of its application.

At that time, his students came down from Seoul to see him. Persuaded by them, he went back to the university and joint the faculty of Seoul University College of Engineering, which opened earlier. He mainly gave lectures on synthetic chemistry and organic chemistry.

Second Dean of Seoul College of Engineering

When the U.S. military returned the campus of the Science and Engineering Department in Sin Kongdok (Taenung) in 1948, the College of Engineering moved to this campus from the old campus of the Kyongsong Higher Industrial School, its predecessor in the period of Japanese rule. In that year, Dr. Yi was appointed as second dean of the College of Engineering succeeding the first dean, Dr. Kim Tong-il. But he did not like the administrative work he had to perform as the dean, and he had his deputy take charge of administrative work. Dr. Yi himself wished to spend as much time as possible on research.

But after becoming the dean, his dissatisfaction as a scientist and educator seemed aggravated further.

First, his dissatisfaction as a scientist stemmed from the inadequacy of the laboratory equipment. He wanted to install facilities for fiber research, his field of specialty, but he could not procure research materials due to budgetary restraints. According to him, he could not buy a single piece of carbide and a gram of alcohol. He also could not buy a copy of a magazine to trace the research outcomes in other countries.

In addition, as an educator he was very much dissatisfied with Syngman Rhee.

Dr. Yi Pyong-ho, who was a student of Seoul College of Engineering in those days, recalls how President Syngman Rhee made a surprise visit to Seoul College of Engineering in February 1950 after having attended the commencement ceremony at the Military Academy. Dr. Yi Pyong-ho described the presidential visit in these words: "When Syngman Rhee visited the College of Engineering, there was no one to greet him at the entrance but the guards. Notified by telephone that President Rhee wanted to see him, Dr. Yi Sung-ki rushed out to greet him.

"President Rhee first wanted to see the library. Seeing the dust piled up on the shelves, he admonished the host, asking 'what kind of school is this?'

"After looking around the library, the president crossed into the next building (No. 2 wing) of the college. The construction of this wing was started before liberation and the project was suspended when liberation came; the finishing stage of the project was under way when the president visited. The electric and water work has yet to be completed, and the whole place was a mess, with holes here and there. Passing one of the holes, President Rhee stepped on human excrement. Seeing this happen, then Defense Minister Sin Song-mo made much ado about cleaning the president's shoes with his handkerchief. President Rhee was very much upset.

"On the same evening, President Rhee made the announcement that the Seoul College of Engineering campus would be handed over to the military academy and the college would move to the old Seoul High School site inside the city. The students once again rose up in protest, throwing the school into chaos. But the professors were asleep saying that the faculty of the national university is the same as government employees. Dr. Yi Sung-ki was in high dudgeon, but there was nothing he could do."

According to his memoirs, Dr. Yi Sung-ki submitted a letter of resignation to the university president. He told the university president that "now that a complaint has been made of poor school building management, you should find a person fit for this post," and so saying he went straight home.

The university president sent him a verbal message asking him to return to the school. Dr. Yi Sung-ki held out saying "I cannot go because I am not only ill but also not competent enough to manage the college." The negotiations lasted for about a month until Dr. Yi finally gave in, thinking that he would gain nothing by hurting the feelings of the university president.

Meanwhile, the Korean war broke out on 25 June. Each time he experienced this or that difficulty Yi Sung-ki is said to have regretted that he had not crossed over into the North with Yo Kyong-ku.

Entry to North Shortly After Outbreak of Korean War

It was in late July, about a month after the outbreak of the Korean war, that Yi Sung-ki crossed over into North Korea.

Dr. Yi Pyong-ho (67) and Yi Kye-nam, younger sister of Yi Sung-ki, met Yi Sung-ki shortly before he left for North Korea.

Yi Pyong-ho, who was a student of Seoul College of Engineering in those days, met him twice, on 26 June and 3 July in 1950.

"On the morning of 26 June, I went to Chongnyang-ri Station feeling that I had to go to my school at any rate. I met Dr. Yi Sung-ki waiting for the train at the station. At that time, refugees from Tongduchon were arriving in droves.

"When I asked him, 'what shall we do?' he answered, 'let us go to the school anyway.' So, we boarded the train and headed for our school."

According to Dr. Yi Pyong-ho, many professors and students gathered at the school on that day. Professor Na Ik-yong, who was in charge of the library, proposed to "put away whatever is valuable." So, everyone put experimental instruments and materials away in the ventilation openings. After putting things away, the professors and students left the school and headed for their respective destinations.

Dr. Yi Pyong-ho stayed with Yuk Koeng-su (stepbrother of the late Yuk Yong-su [wife of President Pak Chong-hui]) in Chebu-tong (near Hyoja-tong), Seoul, because Mr. Yuk suggested that the two leave Seoul together to take refuge in Okchon.

In those days Yuk Koeng-su was the section chief of the Science Institute under the Defense Ministry. Their original plan was to have left in the afternoon of 27 June after burning all classified documents in his office. But he came home in the evening because there were so many documents to burn. On the following morning, that is, on the morning of 28 June, they were getting ready to leave Seoul, but by that time, tanks of the North Korean Army had already entered Kwanghwamun Street.

Professor Yi Pyong-ho said: "After all, we abandoned our plan to take refuge and remained in Seoul. Several days later, on or about 3 July if I remember correctly, I happened to see Professor Kim Tae-yol on the street. He told me that the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea was scheduled to meet on that day at the YMCA auditorium and asked me to come with him." Professor Yi described his meeting with Professor Kim as follows:

"Professor Kim Tae-yol, a graduate of Kyoto University, told me that 'if we stay here, we will become losers. We should go to North Korea.' But I tried to dissuade him. We walked along arguing and soon found ourselves in front of the meeting site.

"In the meeting hall, Dr. Yi Sung-ki was among the platform party. If I remember correctly, the subject of the meeting was how to lead this war to victory for the People's Army. At any rate, Dr. Yi was sitting on the platform at that meeting when I last saw him. I had no chance to talk with him on that occasion.

"I understand that a few days later Dr. Yi took many scientists and technicians to the North ostensibly for an inspection trip."

About six professors and instructors of chemical engineering at Seoul University, in addition to Dr. Yi Sung-ki, went to North Korea after the outbreak of the Korean war.

They are: Yo Kyong-ku, Ma Hyong-ok, Yi Se-hun, Kim Tae-yol, Yi Chang-chik, and Sin Hyon-sok. I understand that most of them were talked by Dr. Yi Sung-ki into going to the North. Their departure reportedly almost paralyzed the chemical engineering classes at Seoul College of Engineering.

However, according to Yi Ung-ki's memoirs, a certain O and others were already in North Korea when he arrived there.

Dr. Yi Pyong-ho remembers that the date on which Dr. Yi Sung-ki left for North Korea was 6 July or thereabout. But, according to the recollection of his younger sister, Yi Kye-nam, Yi Sung-ki stayed in Seoul for a while after that date. [passage omitted]

Hardly Regarded as Communist

It is meaningless to make assumptions about things in the past. But, if Yi Sung-ki had gone to the United States, he might never have gone to the North.

According to his memoirs, the circumstances surrounding his departure were like this: "A short, middle-aged gentleman from the Federation of Industrial Technology called on me. Saying that 'the government of the republic hopes that you will work for Hungnam Chemical Factory,' he courteously asked my opinion. I gladly accepted the proposal."

Yi was "very glad to know that the factory is a carbide factory which had something to do with carbide." He says in his memoirs that "I wanted to work for the victory of the war."

On that evening he left Seoul with his family and at dawn on the following day arrived in Pongung Station in North Korea.

As he says in his memoirs, Yi Sung-ki went to North Korea on his own accord. As a matter of fact, it is difficult to assume that he was abducted to the North.

Dr. Kim Tong-il (83), the first president of Seoul College of Engineering, says that Yi Sung-ki went to the North "half on his accord and half not of his own will." In particular, judging from the fact that he took his family with him, it can hardly be surmised that he was abducted to the North.

However, few think he acted because of "ideology." In other words, few believe that he went to the North because he was a communist.

Dr. Yi Tae-kyu said that Dr. Yi Sung-ki might have been influenced by a certain Hwang, known as a relative of his wife.

Dr. Yi Tae-kyu said: "The man named Hwang attended the Economics Department of Kyoto University. In his school days he was well versed in the theory of communism and known as a 'Red.' Yi Sung-ki may have been influenced by this man. But I do not think Yi Sung-ki himself was a communist. As far as I know, he is susceptible to flattery. He had a tendency to lean toward whoever praised him. Skilful in attracting people through their tightly knit organization, the communists must have easily won him over. He was not a communist, but the communists took advantage of that weakness in his personality."

Success in Industrialization of Vinylon

Of course, some people say that the official residence of the dean of the College of Engineering where Dr. Yi Sung-ki and his apprentices were staying in those days was the "den of communists." But there is no proof that he was an out-and-out communist before he went to the North.

In his memoirs, Yi Sung-ki writes that he did not know much about the theory of communism during his school days in Kyoto University, and even after he arrived in the North. His memoirs were written in the late 1960's, by which time he was well established in North Korea. He went out of his way to state that he had little knowledge of communism in the past.

Anyhow, it seems that he felt less frustrated as a scientist in North Korea. When he was in South Korea, he agonized as "a scientist devoid of research," just like a bird with broken wings, because there was no material support for or attention to his research. But in North Korea he was given full attention and support.

With his entry to North Korea as a watershed, his mood begins to change in his memoirs. If his dissatisfaction and frustration with the U.S. military government and President Syngman Rhee in the South Korean society were the key note of the stories in the first half of his memoirs, the latter half is filled with his fervent admiration for Kim Il-song, who resolved his frustration.

That is natural, considering the fact that his memoirs were published shortly after the industrialization of vinylon production, his cherished wish, was realized.

According to Dr. Yi Pyong-ho, Dr. Yi Sung-ki's research into vinylon in its early stage had not yet reached the stage of manufacture, except that umbrella poles were made of vinylon for experimental purposes.

According to one of his apprentices, there were multitudinous difficulties to overcome before reaching the goal of realizing the industrialization of vinylon manufacture. So, even after he went to North Korea, Dr. Yi Sung-ki visited Kyoto University from time to time.

It is said that beginning at the time of the 4 January retreat, not much after his entry to the North, Yi Sung-ki resumed his synthetic fiber research in an underground research facility in the mountainous area near the Changjin Power Station.

In the spring of 1952, the blueprint for an experimental plant with a daily output of about 20 kilograms was barely completed.

In the same year a conference of scientists was held in the Mokdangang underground palace. Addressing the meeting, Kim Il-song issued this order to the people in the field of chemical industry: "Because we have no oil, you should complete the coal liquefying industry to make oil from brown coal and perfect the process of producing synthetic articles by using quality limestone."

When his research into chemical fiber entered the finishing stage, Dr. Yi filed a report. His report touched off controversy in the Workers Party Central Committee. Some argued that vinylon production should be withheld for a better quality fiber. But Kim Il-song decided in favor of vinylon.

Kim Il-song said: "Vinylon, just like cotton, is a mass-oriented fiber which can be used widely in clothing for adults and children alike. Efforts must be made to industrialize vinylon production in order to supply articles of clothing."

In those days, North Korea was faced with a very acute clothing shortage. Cotton cultivation produced very little compared with the labor put in. So, in order for the farmers not to spend too much time in cotton cultivation, the production of synthetic fiber arose as a very urgent task.

It seems that in those days the clothing shortage was a very serious problem for both North and South Korea.

The scene Yi Sung-ki says he witnessed when he returned to his hometown after liberation graphically points to the seriousness of the fiber shortage.

Yi Sung-ki says in his memoirs: "One day, while passing the public cemetery, I saw two young men carrying a corpse by an A-frame. The corpse was wrapped in a straw mat. Walking behind them were people clothed in rags. Burying the corpse, a young man cried, "Mother never had a cotton dress in her life."

Seeing that the clothing shortage was this acute, he says he never stopped wishing that someday he would discover a method of making synthetic fiber so that decent cloth could be made available to the people.

A decision was made to build a vinylon factory with an annual capacity of 20,000 tons in Pongung.

He devoted himself so much to the construction of the vinylon factory that he fell ill in October 1960 from fatigue. He felt very grateful when Kim Il-song consoled him by sending him two wild ginseng roots with a letter in his own hand.

Yi Sung-ki vs Yi Tae-kyu

The vinylon factory was completed on 1 May 1961 and put into operation on 6 May. Yi Sung-ki was moved to tears when Kim Il-song said to him, "you have now fulfilled your long cherished desire."

His position as scientist was consolidated as the way was paved for solving the people's clothing problem with the erection of the vinylon factory. He was appointed as head of the Hamhung branch of the Academy of Sciences and received the title of Labor Hero in May 1961. He was awarded a Lenin Prize in 1962. He also became deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA].

Yi Sung-ki's splendid success in North Korea reached the ears of Dr. Yi Tae-kyu, who was one year his senior at Kyoto University.

When Dr. Yi Tae-kyu was a professor at the University of Utah in the United States, one day he opened NODONG SINMUN, which was routinely delivered to his home. Mostly, the paper was thrown into the wastebasket unread. But on that particular day, he happened to pick up the paper to read it.

On the front page of the paper he saw a picture of Dr. Yi Sung-ki with a decoration pinned on his chest. Seeing the picture, Dr. Yi Tae-kyu said to himself, with tears in his eyes: "This man has received a meritorious service medal by working for the people of Korea, but I am living all alone here on the American soil."

Dr. Yi Tae-kyu returned to Korea from the United States in 1973 for the first time in 20 years at the invitation of the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology to serve as its professor. The existence of Yi Sung-ki in North Korea was one of the reasons for this invitation.

Dr. Yi Pyong-ho reminisces: "Since early 1970 the problem of academic exchange with North Korea has been a subject of discussion. If an exchange of scientists should begin, Dr. Yi Sung-ki would most likely represent North Korea. In that case those who would represent South Korea, not being equal to Dr. Yi Sung-ki, would treat him like their teachers. We have got to have Dr. Yi Tae-ku back because he would stand face to face with the North Korean delegation as an equal."

But some people think that Dr. Yi Sung-ki's resplendent success in the early 1960's is one of the causes which has put North Korea into the state of backwardness as we see it today.

Describing the limits of the outcome which was produced by the combination of Kim Il-song's chuche ideology and Yi Sung-ki's science, a former government official who was in charge of our government's textile policy in the 1970's said as follows: "Nylon was developed as a substitute for silk, acrylic fiber for wool, and polyester for cotton. These chemical fibers are all derived from petrochemicals.

"North Korea produced vinylon by using coal, which it does not have to import. But vinylon has no natural fiber to replace. In addition, when the whole world was moving toward petrochemicals, North Korea alone stuck to coal derivatives and expanded the vinylon factory.

"Nobody wanted to import vinylon because everyone wanted petrochemical products. As a result, vinylon reached its limits when it met all the domestic demand in North Korea. When North Korea belatedly embarked upon petrochemical production in 1974 and 1975, I thought the race for vinylon was over."

Vinylon was what Dr. Yi Sung-ki wanted and chuche based on self-reliance was what Kim Il-song wanted; the two produced immediate results when they were combined. But, according to the same official, this combination became a factor which steered North Korea's chemical industry in the direction directly opposite to the world trend.

Kim Il-song continued to have profound trust in Dr. Yi Sung-ki subsequent to the successful erection of the vinylon factory. Yi Sung-ki became the first director of Yongbyon Nuclear Research Institute in 1967. His relationship with Kim Il-song was so intimate that when Kim Il-song visited the institute, he and Yi Sung-ki slept in the same room. Therefore, one can easily imagine to what extent Dr. Yi Sung-ki can wield his influence in the field of science and technology in North Korea.

Yi Sung-ki's memoirs end with the story of his happiness over the successful completion of the vinylon factory. For his subsequent activities, we have no other alternative but to rely on the Who's Who.

He attended the East Asian conference of the World Science Federation held in Beijing in September 1963 as head of the delegation of the Korean Democratic Scientists Association. In August 1966 he appeared in Panmunjom with his wife and asked the reporters for information on the whereabouts of his brother-in-law. In October 1966 he became the first North Korean to receive membership in the USSR Academy of Sciences, which recognized him as a world-class scientist.

Since he became a deputy to the Third SPA in 1962, he has been active as deputy until now, in the Fourth SPA elected in 1967, the Fifth SPA elected in 1972, the Seventh SPA elected in 1982, the Eighth SPA elected in 1986, and in the Ninth SPA elected in 1990. He has been director of the Hamhung branch of the Academy of Sciences since 1980.

As his career since 1970 indicates, it seems that he has not been a mere scientist since he passed the age of 60.

A former high-ranking North Korean Government official who recently defected to the South gave an example showing how Dr. Yi Sung-ki has changed.

This ex-official quoted Yi Sung-ki as saying: "You may think that the process of vinylon production was uncovered by scientists, but it was made possible by the fervent solicitude of President Kim Il-song for our people."

The ex-official said, "Yi Sung-ki is a man who knows how to get praised while attributing his success to Kim Il-song."

The following events highlight the record of Yi Sung-ki's activities since the 1980's: the receipt of a Kim Il-song Prize for his "meritorious service in the 1908's in creating the vinylon industry using domestic materials and supplies and contributing to the people's livelihood," and the receipt in 1986 of the title of "People's Scientist" with the Order of National Service Merit Class One.

Yi Sung-ki became the first Korean to receive a doctor's degree in engineering from Kyoto University in 1939. He lived in South Korea for slightly over five years after liberation and subsequently has been living in North Korea for over 40 years.

As he writes in the latter part of his memoirs, Dr Yi Sung-ki is "a man who has experienced two different systems by living both in South and North Korea."

But the "South" is to him a barren land which failed to provide him with a climate conducive to the realization of his dream as a scientist, whereas the "North" is a land of benevolence which let him attain his cherished desire. [passage omitted]

Closer Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Planned

SK1810084491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0543 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—The government considers the third annual ministerial conference of the 12-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), scheduled for next month in Seoul, a milestone on the path of expansion of economic cooperation in the region.

The government's external economic cooperation committee reaffirmed Friday its continued effort to play a pivotal role in cementing regional economic cooperation in the belief that it will help Korea implement economic and diplomatic strategies for the 21st century.

The committee chairman is Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu.

The annual ministerial conference of APEC, established in November 1989, is expected to draw some 700 representatives, including foreign and trade ministers, and journalists from 15 nations to Seoul Nov. 12-14. China, Taiwan and Hong Kong will attend as new members.

High on the agenda will be the role of APEC in successfully concluding the Uruguay Round world trade talks, free trade, adoption of the Seoul declaration and the future course of APEC.

With the admission of "the three Chinas," APEC is expected to emerge as a broad-based regional cooperation body and Korea, as chairnation, plans to make APEC an official organization by adopting the Seoul declaration, which outlines the scope of the organization's activities and membership.

The regional organization groups the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore—Korea, the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Defense Ministry Reveals 1992 Defense Budget

SK2110093991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0912 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—In an unprecedented move, South Korea revealed its defense budget Monday.

Making the figures known for the first time ever, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku put the 1992 defense budget at 9.47 trillion won (12.6 billion U.S. dollars)—a general account of 8.425 trillion won and a special account of 1.045 trillion won.

The general account, up 12.7 percent from this year, would be used primarily to buy deterrent-type weaponry and almost half the special account would be spent on relocating military facilites from urban areas, Yi said.

The ministry would pursue a qualitative military build-up in consideration of the power balance with communist North Korea and would secure a combat capability to fill the vacuum left by the phase-out of the United States armed forces from South Korea, he said.

In the latter 1990s, the ministry would seek to coordinate the military beef-up and arms reduction in preparation for peaceful co-existence of South and North Korea and arms control, Yi said.

Spending on the military build-up increased 181.6 billion won to 2.782 trillion won and the money will be used to secure arms for deterrent purposes such as ground-to-ground missiles, submarines, bombers, and communications equipment for command control.

Yi said the money will also be spent on ground weapons such as tanks and self-propelled artillery and seaborne and airborne strategic weapons.

The management and sustenance budget would increase 767 billion won to 5.64 trillion won, and 129 billion won would be spent on boosting morale and welfare, he said.

The special account of 1.045 trillion won breaks down to 550.7 billion won for pensions and the rest for moving military facilities from city center.

Burma

Minister Returns From PRC Trade Fair, Bangkok

BK1910083391 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1300 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Brigadier General Abel, minister of planning and finance and for trade, returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening after attending the 70th Trade Fair in Guangzhou from 15-30 October and the 1991 annual conference of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon airport by Lieutenant General Chit Swe, minister for livestock breeding and fisheries and for agriculture and forests; Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of Yangon military command; Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador to Myanmar, and embassy officials; and Mr. (Thawatchai), charge d'affaires of the Thai Embassy.

Also returning with the minister were Trade Ministry officials who attended the Trade Fair in Guangzhou, and Planning and Finance Ministry officials who attended the annual conference of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Bangkok, Thailand.

NLD, POCL Agree To Resignation of U Shwe

BK1810131191 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Oct 91

[News Release No. 37/91 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], dated 17 October 1991]

[Excerpt] Subject: The Election Commission has put on record the following matters presented by some political parties and issues in this news release.

1. The National League for Democracy, NLD, has agreed to the resignation of U Shwe as NLD Central Executive Committee member. Moreover, U Shwe also requested that he be permitted to resign as central panel member, Yangon [Rangoon] division organization committee member, and as an ordinary member. Because he did not give the league prior notice of his resignation as an elected representative, which is against the league's regulations, however, U Shwe had already been removed as even an ordinary NLD member as of 8 October 1991.

2. The Patriotic Old Comrades League, POCL, has permitted the resignation of U Shwe as its Central Executive Committee member, central panel member, and as an ordinary member, in accordance with his wishes. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia, & Singapore

Malaysia

New Policy on Recruiting Foreign Workers

BK1710141991 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0909 GMT 17 oct 91

[By Azhar Ghazali]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 17 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia Thursday announced a new five-year policy on recruitment of foreign workers, including legalising with immediate effect those working without employment permits in the plantation and construction sectors.

Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek, who made the announcement at the National Labour Advisory Council (NLAC) meeting here, said the policy would be subject to an annual assessment by the ministry.

The cabinet decided on the new policy in view of the tightening labour market and increasing demand for workers resulting from Malaysia's buoyant economic growth, he told a press conference.

Earlier Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob had told reporters that the government is trying to trace about 120,000 foreigners who are either working illegally or have overstayed in the country,.

Some 60,000 Sri Lankan, Indian, Pakistani, Myanmarese and Bangladeshi Nationals had overstayed in the country, he added.

Another estimated 60,000 foreigners, mostly Indonesians, were working without permits, he said.

Lim said employers in the plantation and construction sectors having a large number of illegal foreign workers could register to legalise them.

The manufacturing sector, he added, would be open selectively to foreign workers, especially the skilled, semi-skilled, technical and professional categories.

Under the previous policy introduced in 1989, legalisation of workers was confined only to the plantation sector.

For domestic workers, the cabinet decided to waive the current regulation requiring them to return to their country of origin after the expiry of their visit passes or temporary employment permits.

They were allowed to return to Malaysia again after residing for six months in their country of origin.

Instead, Lim said, the government would allow the visit passes to be considered for extension on a year-to-year basis.

The policy also allows training institutions to recruit foreign trainers and instructors if Malaysians were not available.

Under the new policy, the services and other economic sectors would not be open to foreign workers unless employers were able to prove that they were really facing difficulties in recruiting local workers.

Information Minister Receives DPRK Delegation

BK1710073691 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] The minister of information, Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, has stressed the need for broadcasting organizations in the South to foster understanding. This could be done through the exchange of radio and television programs. Such an exchange will enable peoples living in developing nations to understand each other better. This is especially so as the media in the West has not been very positive in its reports on the developing world. Through such an exchange, especially of news items, the developing countries can relate to events through their own perspectives. He was speaking to a North Korean delegation that paid a courtesy call on him.

Datuk Mohamed Rahmat also suggested an agreement on broadcasting and information be considered between the two countries. He felt that by becoming a member of Asiavision, events in North Korea could be telecast in many Asian countries, and at the same time such events could be used by European and American networks which also subscribe to Asiavision.

The leader of the Korean delegation, Mr. Choe Song-su, said in the spirit of nonalignment and South-South cooperation there should be an exchange of programs between North Korea and Radio Television Malaysia.

Thai Official Apologizes for Border Incident

BK1810125291 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Oct 91 p 10

[Text] Arau, Wed—Former Songkhla Governor Niphon Bonyaphatro today formally apologised to the Raja [Ruler] of Perlis for the intrusion by over 30 armed Thai officers at the triangular bazaar area in Padang Besar on June 30.

Mr. Niphon, now the deputy permanent secretary to the Interior Ministry, extended the apology on behalf of the Thai authorities during an audience with the Raja at the Istana [Palace] Arau here. The Raja Muda [Crown Prince] of Perlis, Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh and top officials from South Thailand were also present.

Besides officially ending the controversy triggered by the widely-publicised incident, the occasion signalled the beginning of greater economic cooperation between Perlis and Songkhla.

Dr. Abdul Hamid, briefing reporters later, said the ruler expressed satisfaction with the latest development and hoped Songkhla and Perlis would start a new chapter in their long-standing relations by giving due emphasise to economic cooperation.

"The ruler wants officials from Perlis to have regular dialogues with their counterparts in Songkhla to pave the way for greater economic ties," he said.

Mr. Niphon was the Songkhla Governor at the time of the incident. Currently he is also the director-general of Yala-based Southern Provinces Administration Center.

He headed a 11-member delegation comprising top regional police, Customs, Immigration, along with senior Songkhla provincial administration officials and representatives from the military.

Mr. Niphon later told reporters he felt relieved that he had apologised to the Raja.

Singapore

Conditions Set for Admitting SRV Boat People

BK1710144791 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Government is prepared to allow 10 Vietnamese boat people to come ashore if two countries which promised to resettle them within three months will also honour earlier written guarantees they gave for other refugees.

In a statement last night, the Ministry of Home Affairs made it clear that fresh guarantees in writing were required because these two countries had defaulted on their earlier promise.

The ministry also disclosed that arrangements had been made on compassionate grounds to transfer one of the 10 refugees from the ship that brought them in to a local hospital for treatment.

The statement was issued in response to a BBC report early yesterday that the Singapore office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee [UNHCR] was awaiting an answer to its appeal to the Singapore Government to let the 10 refugees come ashore.

The refugees—seven women and three men—were reported to have arrived here on Tuesday after they were picked up from their fishing boat by a Panamanian-registered vessel in the open sea.

The ministry's statement said that the Singapore Government's policy on refugees picked up at sea was that they would be allowed to land here only if third countries gave written guarantees of removal within three months.

Refugees accepted under such guarantees are housed at the Hawkins Road Camp pending their resettlement.

Although several countries failed to honour their written guarantees to remove refugees within the three-month period, the Government agreed in July last year to allow 25 refugees to come ashore under a written guarantee provided by a foreign government.

"This foreign government, which had earlier defaulted on its guarantee for 77 other refugees, also undertook to remove these outstanding 77 refugees in addition to the 25 new cases," the statement said.

"However, even in this case, the foreign government reneged on its written promise. As a result, all 148 refugees now in the Hawkins Road Camp today have overstayed the three-month period, the vast majority having overstayed by more than 12 months."

The Singapore Government, the statement added, had to take a firm position.

In July, it informed the UNHCR representative here that no more Vietnamese refugees would be allowed to land until all earlier arrivals had been removed in accordance with the written guarantees of the various foreign governments. Two foreign governments, which were among those which had previously defaulted on their guarantees, offered unconditional guarantees to remove Tuesday's arrivals within three months.

Referring to defaults by the two governments, the statement said: "Notwithstanding this, the Singapore Government is still prepared to make an exception and allow the 10 Vietnamese to land provided these two governments also guarantee in writing that they will remove within three months not only these 10 refugees, but all the previous cases for which they had provided guarantees."

The statement did not identify the two governments. But THE STRAITS TIMES understands from other sources that they are Norway and the Netherlands.

Accord With New Guinea To Avoid Double Taxes

BK2010074691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 19 Oct 91

Singapore, Oct 19 (AFP)—Singapore and Papua New Guinea Saturday signed an agreement to eliminate double taxation and promote a greater flow of investment, trade and technical expertise between them.

The agreement also provides a favourable framework for both countries to build greater economic cooperation, a Finance Ministry statement said.

The agreement will be effective once both governments have exchanged the instruments of ratification.

Singapore Finance Minister Richard Hu signed the agreement with Papua New Guinea's Parlimentary Under-Secretary for Finance and Planning Thomas Negints. Singapore has signed similar agreements with 26 other countries.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Addresses Party Congress 17 Oct

BK2010114191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Speech by Hun Sen at the Kampuchean People's Party Extraordinary Congress on in Phnom Penh 17 October—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the congress, greetings to the beloved delegates. This day has historic significance in the political life of our party, which has taken the initiative to convene this extraordinary congress to review what we have done, both good and bad; assess the general situation; and set the tone for the new situation. Our party has always been courageous and has dared to do what must be done in the interest of the country and the people.

From the beginning, our party stressed two major goals—the most important ones—in our party's activities. First, ending the war and bringing about national reconciliation on the basis of preventing the return of the danger from the past, which we called the danger of genocide. Second, ending the Cambodian people's poverty within the framework of an independent and sovereign Cambodia with full territorial integrity. To achieve these goals, the party has set out many policies beneficial to national reconciliation and socio-economic restoration. This is an honor we are glad to accept.

Dear Congress: From this platform I would like to make a personal statement, and not one of the government or in my name as its leader. This is a statement in my name as a party member who has contributed, along with all the party leaders, to put forward many political initiatives aimed at solving the problems facing the country and nation.

First of all, I would like to stress that I fully and categorically support our party's political platform, which is being presented to the congress today for examination, discussion, and adoption. What I want to contribute at this time deals with some aspects of political and socio-economic problems to be faced and solved on a concrete basis. My view is that it is already very difficult for our party to set out this political platform, but what is even more difficult is its implementation and the settlement of incidental problems that could crop up as this political platform is implemented.

Dear Congress, after more than two decades of tragedy and war, a solution for peace has emerged after nearly four years of negotiations which were full of difficulties in many forms. A peace agreement, which will be signed at the Paris International Conference on Cambodia in the near future, will allow the Cambodian people to enjoy peace and national reconciliation once again. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire party, nation, and Army for their trust in me and for having appointed me as their representative to all the peace negotiations. They have always provided support for all the agreements I have reached with other parties.

After a drawn-out war, everybody is happy about the forthcoming peace. For the Cambodian people, however, this happiness is still mixed with concern. Our people's concern is whether the Pol Pot regime of massacre will return and whether ownership will be confiscated, currency will be eliminated, or people will be expelled from their homes, as in 1975. They also have other concerns.

It is obvious that these worries are legitimate, and our party, as a political party which has struggled for the people's rights and freedom, opposed genocide, and implemented political and economic liberalization policy, must share these concerns and find ways to deal with these worries.

The human rights issue is a special one in Cambodia's history. I would like to propose that, in any circumstance and situation, our party should be a vanguard political party in the defense of human rights and should oppose the return of the activities of the past, because these activities have created great danger for our nation and people. Our party has set out a policy on human rights and has opposed genocide from the very beginning, while some political parties—which are going to participate in finding a political solution—have allied themselves with the genocidal group.

To achieve the goal of defending human rights and preventing the return of the danger from the past, apart from our own forces, I propose that our party prepare itself to cooperate with other political parties that have the same objective of creating a national movement to defend human rights.

I also appeal to our compatriots in and outside the country to actively participate in the movement to defend human rights. Over the past 13 years, because they do not want the barbarous regime to return, our compatriots have actively taken part in the movement to defend the nation in accordance with their capability, such as enrolling in the armed forces, serving in the national defense movement, and assisting on the battlefield, and so on. These are lofty sacrifices involving lives, flesh and blood, property, and so on.

A political solution is now in sight. Parties should stop fighting militarily and should compete politically and democratically. Therefore, this does not require the major sacrifices of the past. If we want to prevent the return of the regime that massacred the people, the most important requirement is simply to vote against the political party that used to carry out such barbarous acts and the political parties that used to support and ally themselves with that party.

Over the past few years, we have used military, political, and diplomatic measures to prevent the Pol Pot regime from returning. At present, the situation has allowed us to use the people's right to self-determination, expressed through elections, to prevent the return of this bloodthirsty regime. If we do not want the Pol Pot regime to return but vote for the Pol Pot party and those who have allied themselves with Pol Pot anyway, this would certainly be the opposite of what we want.

The people's worry over ownership is a reasonable concern, because the past is threatening the present. Some political parties which have networks abroad have said in their propaganda that, if they win in the election, they will confiscate the houses and land being occupied and worked on by the people. This is preparation for a new civil war which will be fought between the political parties that won the election and the people's families. It will mean the creation of a new type of Pol Pot regime which will turn Cambodian society upside down, and nobody—neither one political party or many parties combined together—will control the situation.

I have heard this propaganda from some people in the United States, France, Canada, and Australia. I have told them that, in the interest of the nation and social stability, I do not want any political party to put forward an ignorant policy or political goal. If they failed to think it over thoroughly, however, they might come up with just such a political platform simply because it is their right to do so. I would like to warn the parties that they would become a target of attacks by the general public, attacks which would not even be instigated by any political party.

Everybody knows that the Pol Pot regime confiscated all of the people's ownership in Cambodia in 1975—not only property ownership, but also human lives. Millions of people were killed, and those who were spared found themselves completely deprived of their ownership rights. They have learned that, in pushing for the implementation of the so-called collectivization, the Pol Pot regime forcibly moved the people from all the cities and townships to the countryside, taking them from one place to another as part of an important measure among their measures to eradicate the system of private ownership of property and sentiments.

After the liberation on 7 January 1979, all these problems came to be serious consequences which needed to be solved by our party. Cities and townships were deserted. Houses and land were without owners. After being liberated from the concentration areas, communal worksites, and communal kitchens, the people began looking for land and living quarters for resettlement. In the countryside, a number of people managed to return to their former houses and exploit their former land, but some others had to take residence in new houses and cultivate new lands. In cities and townships, families in general had to live in other people's houses instead of their own and work on others' lands instead of their own. Vacant houses were immediately occupied, and the new occupants became owners of the houses and lands. Many such houses and lands have even changed hands many times.

Such a situation has become a problem for our party. How should the distribution of house and land ownership be handled? Should the ownership be handed over to the people on the grounds that these people are currently occupying the houses and working on the lands, or should we revise and restore the pre-1970 or pre-1975 ownership?

After spending considerable time examining the issue, we decided to give ownership to the current tenants of houses and lands, because we could not revise the ownership, which would only lead toward evacuating the people from the houses and lands that they are now occupying.

On this issue, I would like to propose that our party firmly maintain the current ownership status quo. In all circumstances, our party must defend the people's interests on the basis of the current legitimate ownership of lands, houses, property, and means of production. At the same time, it must protect all foreign companies that have been doing business with Cambodia by correctly honoring all existing commitments.

In a situation in which a number of political parties are threatening to proceed with the seizure of the current ownership, our party must be one that dares to stand up against all dictatorial acts that those parties might perpetrate against the people if they win the election. That should be one of the human rights problems which our party must consider itself duty bound to solve.

I would also like to take the opportunity offered by this congress to inform our beloved compatriots that, if they do not want to be chased out of the houses, lands, enterprises, and sites on which they are presently living and working, and if they do not wish to see chaos throughout our country, they must not vote for anyone from the political parties that advocate a policy against the current ownership. If they vote for political parties that have such a policy, they must understand that, once the vote has been cast, they will have to pack up and get out of their present living quarters and will become refugees in Cambodia once again. In other words, if the people do not vote to give them the power, these political parties will never have the power to seize or eradicate whatever belongs to the people now.

I also would like to inform the people that some political parties might make some sort of tactical compromise on this question. They might alter their political platform to recognize the current ownership to win our people's support. We must be careful about some individuals or some political parties' remarks that on paper or in words seem nice to the eyes or sweet to the ears. Once they win the elections and wield the power, they might revert to their old ideas, just as we experienced in the 1970's.

As far as our party is concerned, not only have we advocated our principles on paper, but we have also been implementing them in practice. This is a reality that our compatriots have witnessed, are witnessing, and maybe will witness in the future, forever. I believe I ust talk about this issue because I am responsible for the negotiations. I do not wish to be castigated by history and the people for being the one who would harm the people's interests during the negotiations.

While preaching the maintenance of the current ownership status quo, we do understand the feeling of some of our compatriots, both at home and abroad, who so tenderly love the houses and lands they inherited from their ancestors and parents and who wish to get them back. We cannot solve this problem, however, by returning them to their homes by simply kicking out the families that are currently occupying these houses and lands. A compromise formula can be found only by making a deal between the former owners and the new owners by seeing to it that they give one another appropriate benefits or barter with each other on the basis of mutual consent, never through coercion. The authorities may help facilitate this transfer of ownership on the basis of bilateral consensus.

The monetary issue is also part of the ownership problem. The opposition political parties do not recognize our riel currency, despite the fact that they have been using it. The refusal to recognize the riel at a time when our people are using this money and are circulating it throughout the country is also refusal to recognize the current property of the people. It also constitutes a direct opposition to the market economy, which calls for an interrelationship between currency and goods.

It is publicly known that the Pol Pot regime provided for no monetary usage, no markets, nor anything that human society needs to sustain a market system. After liberation, how did we deal with this situation as it was left by the Pol Pot regime?

We were a political force that turned 180 degrees away from the Pol Pot regime and, as the evolutionary law of human society demands that there be markets and transactions between currency and goods, we could no longer let the people use the barter system to exchange materials for materials, rice for fish, scarves for fish paste, and so on, as was the practice immediately follwoing the liberation in 1979. The situation required that our state print paper money to be used as the medium for exchanging goods.

In the past and at present, the riel bank notes have become the currency representing the people's legitimate property. Any refusal to recognize the riel bank notes currently in circulation constitutes a rejection and a seizure of the citizens' legitimate property. We resolutely oppose such a misdeed. I propose that we include the preservation of the riel's value in our party's program and that we remain firm in the face of some political parties' adventurous attempts to undermine the value of the riel, which constitutes the people's legitimate property. At the same time, our party must not oppose the exchange of the old riel for the new riel, which the government may print and put into circulation in the future on the basis that the old riel bank notes can be exchanged for the new riel bank notes while preserving their intrinsic values.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the congress that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has no intention whatsoever of wiping out either the people's ownership or the riel currency. During my plane trip from Beijing to Pyongyang on 18 July 1991, I informed the samdech that the people were concerned about the ownership issue and that they fear confiscation similar the events of 1975. The samdech asked me to inform the leaders in Phnom Penh and the compatriots throughout the country that such a question would never arise. Although the samdech made no written promise, I can assure all of you that the samdech will never act in a way that may affect the people's peaceful and happy life. Whatever the samdech is pondering, it is surely not the destruction of the people's legitimate property. Instead, he is thinking of making efforts in addition to those made by our government and people in order to rebuild the nation. As a matter of fact, the samdech has played the role of chairman of the national committee in search of aid for the socioeconomic restoration and development of our State of Cambodia. Moreover, when our Cambodian people were suffering from the floods, the samdech promptly came to their rescue. In addition to making his personal donations, the samdech appealed for international assistance to be given to the people through the government of the State of Cambodia.

Whatever I have said concerning some political parties or personalities, it certainly has nothing to do with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. Furthermore, the samdech has resigned from all his positions in the national government. He is now with the Supreme National Council as its neutral chairman, who belongs to no political party as stressed in a written statement the samdech made on 16 September 1991.

Dear congress participants: I would like to express my views on certain points concerning the implementation of our party's political platform.

The political field:
The situation has entered a new stage. The time has come for our party to proceed with widespread political reform. Over the past few years some countries and some persons have criticized us for not supporting the multiparty system. This criticism has some basis, but it does not conform with reality. As a matter of fact, there have already been many political parties in Cambodia which have been fighting each other not, only only politically, but in all fields, including the military field. Our party has understood for a long time that we cannot end the conflict by using war to end war, but we can use peace to restore peace. Our party took the initiative in holding negotiations to find a political solution for this reason. The political settlement must be decided by the elections, and this means than our party is already prepared to accept a multi-party system.

Before reaching that stage, however, our party must defend itself against any divisive activity which would weaken the forces fighting against the return of the Pol Pot regime. Prior to the cease-fire agreements and the comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem, the major task of the party consisted of leading all forces of the country against the military activities of the Polpotists and their allies. That was why the party advocated the unity of forces—so that we would not have to face too many other problems at the same time.

Our party is proud to note that, despite the countless difficulties stemming from the military attacks launched by the Polpotists and their allies, it did not have to place the country under a state of emergency, nor did it have to call for a general mobilization or martial law, as some other countries did when coping with a war situation.

We walked the middle line between the unity of forces that prohibits the creation of a party within the party, and the refusal to use any coercive rules or formulas that might harm the rights of the citizens.

Dear congress delegates, assessing the future of our country's political situation is a worrisome issue. The conflict our country has faced for over 21 years has increased the size of a great many political groups that have been carrying out hostile activities against one another. Those groups have not only opposed one another politically, but they have also confronted each other militarily. As such, mistrust has become deeply rooted due to the tragedy of the past. An agreement on a peaceful political solution for Cambodia has allowed all parties to cease fighting and to leave the battlefield to enter a political contest in a democratic manner.

The Cambodian people will decide everything related to the future of political parties or political personalities, and this is a plus. What is worrisome, however, is a compromise among the political parties in the National Assembly or a new government in the event there is no party that has a majority vote to adopt the constitution or form a government. The party's goodwill to bring stability to the nation has enabled us to be prepared to cooperate with other political parties in the interests of the nation and people. In such a situation, I think that it is necessary to have a Cambodian personality with enough influence to act as moderator between the political parties in Phnom Penh. Because Samdech Norodom Sihanouk belongs to no particular political party, nor at any time has he abused the authority of his position as chairman of the SNC, and because the samdech is fully capable of reconciling the different political parties, I propose that our party support Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's candidacy for president of Cambodia in the upcoming election. It is my opinion that this is the best formula for steering Cambodia away from the policy [changes thought], from a new political crisis.

The economic field:
I am very proud that in the past, at a time when the country was in a state of no war, no peace, and when the national budget was spent primarily on national defense, thanks to our correct economic policy we overcame many major difficulties and enabled the economy to continue developing normally.

At present, on the basis of the free market economic structures, various economic components are undertaking activities with confidence. Foreign companies are investing capital in many sectors. All of this constitutes hopeful prospects for the continuation of the economic development that might have been even greater had the war in the country been brought to an end. One thing that might obstruct the movement toward investment from both local and foreign companies in the fields of production and service can only come from the threat by some political parties known to be against the present state of ownership. I have already discussed this issue. Under whatever circumstances and in whatever situation, our party must defend at all costs the legitimate ownership of the citizens against all forms of violation of the people's ownership, be it through confiscation, nationalization, or some other procedure.

Dear congress participants, from the time we implemented the economic liberalization policy, our party has been unanimous on one point: What is terrifying is not the private, capital-intensive economy, but the people's endless condition of poverty.

Our consensus on this analysis has led us to conduct highly concerted actions that have resulted in remarkable socioeconomic development. Indeed, we must dare to recognize our shortcomings in economic management and control. Moreover, we must not be afraid to admit that our control networks have not yet been able to cope with the new situation and new task. This requires us to make further improvements in courageous and reasonable steps.

Dear congress participants, I would like to take this opportunity to spend some time discussing our people's future economic priorities.

I would like to touch on the agricultural sector, which is the mainstay of our Cambodian people, who are mostly peasants. Of course, this does not mean that I will forget about other sectors.

In our country, the peasants make up the greatest proportion, but the lands [words indistinct] for agriculture. The peasants' principal demand is to have land and own it. Basically, this demand has been met, despite the fact that it has fallen short of the target in some regions due to the reality that there is no longer a balance between the size of the population and that of the land. The people are basically the masters of their own land, however.

At present, however, the problem is not a static one. It is not just about the people wanting to become owners of their land, but it is now about what we should do and how we should do it so that the peasants' production yields increase.

The major problems of our country now and in the future are the loss of balance between demand and supply, first of all regarding food supplies. The annual population growth has risen to no less than 2.8 percent. According to our calculation, if the population growth is one percent, our growth should be three percent. Thus, over 30 percent growth is needed every year in order to feed the people, and this includes seeds and animal husbandry.

While demand has been rising, our agricultural production has never been stable, because it depends almost entirely on nature. Ricefields and lands are also infertile—and this has happened at a time when we lack fertilizers. Some aspects of state policies have not given the peasants full encouragement. The issue to be solved now is not simply reducing population growth to conform with the increase in food supplies. Ways should be found to match production with population growth to produce a surplus for export. As we look at the land being worked on by our peasants, the land that has not yet been reclaimed, and the land that can be exploited for producing foodstuffs, we realize that there is a lot of it. This problem is not very serious, except in some heavily populated areas that have a small land area and where new land has not yet been found due to the lack of security in the country.

Our problem is this: The people have deployed efforts to exploit a large area of land, but the yield is very low and is not appropriate to the labor. At times crops were also destroyed by nature. In the immediate future, as in our long-term plan, we should reexamine the investment structure to attract most of the capital into the agricultural sector in which providing water for peasants to grow rice enables them to become not only masters in producing one crop a year but also to lengthen the cultivation season.

As part of the investment for peasants in the agricultural sector, over the past few years we did not levy taxes on agricultural land. I propose that our party examine and set forth in the party's political platform that no taxes will be levied on agricultural land for a period between five and 10 years, beginning in 1992. To encourage investment in the agricultural sector, most importantly in foodstuff production—which is our top priority at the moment and in the future—I propose that our party and government exempt from taxation or reduce taxes to the lowest level for companies that import material and equipment serving the agricultural sector, such as fertilizers, insecticides, insecticide spraying tubes, water pumps, agricultural machinery, and so on. These companies should be provided with opportunities to export rubber, timber, and some grains under state management. The exemption of taxes or tax reduction on the import of agricultural material are aimed at enabling peasants to buy these things cheaply. This is a way to encourage peasants' production and promote increased yields through intensive cultivation, and also a way to introduce technology into the agricultural sector.

At the same time, the state should adopt an appropriate price policy, particularly for paddy and various agricultural products. Peasants should be provided with the benefit and possibility of circulating their products freely. We should also have appropriate policies for industries and handicrafts producing agricultural implements, animal feed, and transforming agricultural products for export, and investment in foodstuff production, most importantly on the land currently being exploited. Water problems should be solved to lengthen the cultivation season, and technology, seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides for intensive cultivation introduced to increase the yield.

At the same time, attention should be paid to a number of areas where the imbalance between land area and the size of the population is serious, namely heavily populated areas with a small productive land area. Taking into consideration the number of people and the land area throughout the country, we do not have land problems. What is difficult, however, is that there are a number of areas which have a lot of people where the land area for production is small, while there are sparsely populated areas that have a large land area for production.

This problem requires us to set forth a policy to properly divide social labor. Over the past few years, due to security and infrastructure factors, people who look for new productive lands are small in number. The war will end soon, and security will be ensured for the people who have to look for new land. Therefore, this task will be easy. The search for new lands or the setting up of a new home, however, is dependent not only on the security factor; it also depends on the infrastructure—roads, schools, hospitals, monasteries, circulation of goods—and the influx of progressive culture, among other factors. What is important is to make people willing to settle in the areas where their living standards will be better than where they are now.

Our party has set forth policies to divide social labor aimed at expanding the national economy. However, the way things were done during the Pol Pot regime—when people were forced out of their old homes to settle in new areas against their will—should be absolutely avoided. What we should do now and in the future is to work to destroy mines on the land that contains mines; build communications lines in rural areas—paths, roads, schools, bridges, dams, dikes, hospitals, monasteries, cultural buildings, marketplaces; eradicate malaria; exempt from taxation agricultural land that has been reclaimed or newly exploited for a period of time as mentioned above; allow the circulation of products the people have produced; provide facilities to those who have to leave their old homes; and provide facilities to people who have to look for new land or set up new homes; and others.

It is true that expanding new lands should be done in accordance with clear plans. It is necessary to take into consideration protecting the environment and natural resources. Our country still has a large amount of land. We encourage all those with capital in and outside the country to invest and exploit this large area of land. A law has already been promulgated on this. Activities which harm the environment and natural resources should be prevented. Getting one thing should not affect something else.

Dear Congress, I have spoken a great deal about the agricultural sector and the peasants. This is an important issue in our party's policy, because our country's economy is based on agriculture, and the majority of the people are peasants. A society in which only cities and townships are developed while the peasants in rural areas have remained poor will not only have problems with its agriculture-based economy, but will also widen the gap in living standards between rural areas and cities—economically, morally, and culturally. This, among other factors, will be a cause for future social instability.

I would like to talk a bit about the cultural, educational, and social affairs sectors. Over the past nearly 13 years our party and state should be proud, to a certain extent, of having greatly developed the education and cultural sector. In our party's new political platform offers a new basis for development in this field.

On this occasion, I would like the congress to pay attention to an appropriate cultural-educational policy. This is a part of the social policy to expand the human factor by using human service as the goal for serving socio-economic activities. Therefore, culture and education should be considered a labor force and also our goal. Developed culture is for serving socio-economic development. Conversely, policy and economy should help culture develop. This is their proper relationship.

With efforts to build a society with a fairly developed culture, we will have an important basis for building a progressive political regime that is democratic and a society with firm law which provides for the citizens' equality. This will contribute to solving the relationship between the people and the state, between the people and people, and between individualism and collectivism, and will create favorable conditions for the establishment of the life of individuals, families, and public life. This will expand and strengthen individuals so they can become civilized, honest, and healthy people who are good at work, who know how to defend themselves, and who respect others. This will make the society more democratic and the people more free. Respect for human rights will be more efficient. The introduction of scientific techniques for socio-economic development will also improve.

It is necessary to carry out reforms in our educational sector. Education is for everybody, from primary education to general knowledge and education for elderly people. This is the educational foundation; it is basic education and the common cause of society and the nation. It has an important and key role in the socio-economic development of our country and nation. In particular localitiesn this is still a complex issue for developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, especially Cambodia, which is a poor country. This calls for great and vigorous efforts, high responsibility, patience, and perseverance to carry out urgent reforms to solve these basic problems:

1. Bringing together children of school age and illiterate persons to study.

2. Strengthening educational quality.

3. Strengthening the quality of administration.

These three key issues are closely interrelated. It is the basis for society and the nation to have [words indistinct].

1. The bringing together of school age children and illiterate persons to study and the building and strengthening of the material base form an important strategy. In the immediate future we should also pay attention to democracy [words indistinct] primary education, general knowledge, and educating all types of elderly persons. Flexible and different ways and measures should be found for each locality.

As for the propaganda and the urging of the masses and the entire society to contribute and assist in gathering pupils to go to school, this is another major and necessary task. The use of combined forces and media networks should be consolidated and expanded. For remote and difficult areas, as well as those populated by ethnic minorities, cooperation with social forces in and outside the country should be expanded. Conditions should be created to assist in creating a material basis providing good accomodation for study for both students and teachers in localities. The role and duty of the primary education and general knowledge network should be clearly set out. These are complementary.

2. More important than this is that education should be most closely linked to the people's interest and daily life, as this will encourage the people to learn and study well. The increase in numbers should also be linked to the consolidation of educational quality. The gathering of pupils for study should be linked to modernization and curriculum reforms, including upgrading textbooks, educational materials, and the quality and competence of teachers. The enrolled pupils should finish a quality primary education and should really be able to contribute to improving their life and continuing their education at higher levels.

In the future, attention should be paid to providing and increasing basic knowledge. New pedagogical capabilities in various forms should respond effectively to this immense task. In sum, we should continue to heighten the standards of the teaching profession.

3. Another important point in achieving the goal of education for everyone is the reform of the quality of administration. We should realize the interrelationship between the tasks of setting up plans and administration. This could be a major issue which should be improved efficiently. Reforms in this interrelationship, the formation of plans, administration, and education should reflect the delegation of power and democratic character at all levels in the party, from the central to the local and unit levels. The degree and extent of the delegation of administrative rights could be different in accordance with the geographic, social, and economic conditions of each locality.

The delegation of administrative rights does not, however, mean the transfer of all power to the localities. We should continue to study and conduct research on administrative reforms to make them appropriate to the real situation in our Cambodia. This should become the key factor, in the real sense, able to rally social and national forces.

We are faced with difficulties in all the above issues. These difficulties will become more acute if there are no reasonable solutions. Higher education establishments cannot absorb all the students. Our party and state have allowed the opening of private educational establishments and allowed those with a secondary education certificate, level two, to study in the preparatory classes of higher educational establishments. We have created conditions for pupils and students to study abroad privately and through the state.

These are measures to solve these problems, but I have noted that these measures are not enough. Therefore, I propose that we work to widely expand vocational training in state and private schools. State and private vocational schools should be promoted so as to ensure high results in vocational training.

In the educational sector, which is strongly connected to the building of persons, our party should strive to find every means to fulfill this sector with appropriate investment of capital and achieve three strategic goals over the next 10 years.

1. Strive to deal with the issue of education at all levels from kindergartens to higher education through every form. Priority should be given to education for all and vocational training.
2. Raise the educational standards and promote curriculum reforms, the upgrading of textbooks, research on teaching science, reforms in conditions for study, and the raising of standards for teachers.
3. Link education to the requirement for social and national development.

These three strategies are interrelated, and they should be implemented concurrently to be successful.

Dear Congress, assisting our compatriots is a complex issue in our country. Disabled persons, orphans, war victims, and victims of nature require that we continue to be responsible toward them. We cannot close our eyes to their difficulties and hardships, particularly those of orphans and invalids.

For nearly 13 years, our party and state have done everything to provide a dignified life for the tens of thousands of orphans left from the Pol Pot regime. In the future, our party should continue to be a reliable support for them. They should become good citizens of society through our party's assistance.

Before concluding, I would like to discuss Cambodia's future foreign policy. Our party has put forth a permanent neutral policy with the intention of strengthening national independence and territorial integrity. It is also our party's policy to have friendly relations with all countries regardless of their political and social systems, first of all with neighboring countries on the basis of equality, independence, sovereign, and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, non-aggression, cooperation, and mutual benefit. Furthermore, it is our party's policy to support the idea of turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom, neutrality, and cooperation.

Remaining neutral is the only way for Cambodia to avoid political crisis and outside threats. Solving the Cambodian problem by leading Cambodia to become an enemy of this or that country is dangerous. Relations and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and the settlement of conflicts or differences through negotiation is the best choice for Cambodia now and in the future. Cambodia is being turned from a battlefield into a marketplace, and it is expected that, thanks to our policy, Cambodia will become a partner in the Southeast Asian market.

Finally, I would like to thank the congress for paying attention to my address. I wish the congress success.

Party Elects Chea Sim, Hun Sen to Leadership

BK1810115691 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1110 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Oct (SPK)—Chea Sim was elected chairman and Hun Sen vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] [words indistinct]. On the evening of [words indistinct] the CPP Central Committee held a plenum chaired by H.E. Heng Samrin and decided the following:

1. The plenum decides to turn the members and alternate members of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee into members and alternate members of the CPP Central Committee, as the extraordinary national congress of the party has not elected any new members to the Central Committee.

2. The plenum decides to turn the members of the Political Bureau Secretariat of the KPRP Central Committee into members of the standing committee of the party Central Committee.

3. The plenum decides to turn the Control Commission of the KPRP Central Committee and the chairman of the party Central Committee Control Commission into the Control Commission of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Control Commission of the party Central Committee.

4. The plenum decides to name H.E. Heng Samrin honorary president of the CPP Central Committee.

5. The plenum elects and appoints two leaders of the party: H.E. Chea Sim chairman of the CPP Central Committee and H.E. Hun Sen vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee.

People's Party Extraordinary Congress Ends

Chea Sim Closes Congress

BK1910091591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, at the closing of the extraordinary party congress in Phnom Penh on 18 October—recorded]

[Text] Respected (?presidium members), dear national and foreign guests:

[Words indistinct] of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] have fulfilled historic and significant tasks to carry on the ultimate goals of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] in the new stage.

By implementing liberal democracy and [words indistinct] the nation and people, the congress has unanimously approved the political platform and the new and amended party statute in conformity with the reality of the country's situation and the people's sacred aspirations and in response to the current world trend.

(?The political platform) of the CPP clearly shows its desire and goodwill for achieving peace and national reconciliation to rally the entire nation's forces, coupled with international support, (?to develop our beloved Cambodian motherland).

[Words indistinct] independence, peace, freedom, democracy, neutrality, and social progress, the CPP will adhere to democracy, heighten national conscience, and establish extensive relations with all countries throughout the world, beginning with the neighboring countries. In line with its policy of permanent neutrality, the state of Cambodia will adhere to a political system of liberal democracy with a multi-party structure and a clear division of three powers—the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. The president and assembly will be elected through universal, direct, and secret ballot, and we will have a free market system which will broaden every citizen's capabilities and freedom of vocation.

All these are fundamental to Cambodian citizens, both inside the country and abroad, so they can fully execise their rights and freedoms to live their lives, to earn a living, to beliefs, expression, (?association), publishing, (?setting up newspapers, gathering), education, (?travel), to set up a home, defend oneself in court, and to form trade unions, associations, and political parties in order to build a democratic, [words indistinct] and prosperous Cambodia. The CPP (?statute) amended on the basis of the (ideals) of the KPRP is in line with the party's political platform [words indistinct] multi-party system and responds to all aspects of the rallying of all political forces in national society for national construction and development, the sublime goal of our (?people).

Excellencies; ladies and gentlemen: During the sessions on party reforms and at this congress on 17 October 1991, the 14th session of the Central committee held a plenary session that achieved the following:

1. It turned the full-fledged and alternate members of the KPRP Central Committee into members of the CPP Central Committee, as the current CPP extraordinary national congress had elected no new members to the Central Committee.

2. It turned all members of the Central Committee's Political Bureau and Secretariat into members of the Standing Committee of the party Central Committee.

3. It turned the party Central Committee's Control Commission and its chairman into the Control Commission and the chairman of the Control Commission of the CPP Central Committee.

4. It appointed His Excellency Heng Samrin as honorary president of the party Central Committee.

5. It elected the party's top leadership, namely His Excellency Chea Sim as chairman of the CPP Central Committee; and His Excellency Hun Sen as the vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, [passage indistinct] sacrifices of our cadres, combatants, and people who have contributed to the noble cause of the CPP in national salvation and rebirth [words indistinct].

The congress would like to warmly welcome the solemn address of Chairman Hun Sen made on behalf of the government and as a party member as a meaningful address that was imbued with valuable experience and which took into account the vital interests of the people and the fate of the nation, and which was fully in line with the party ideals.

Our congress regards this address as an annex document of our party's political platform.

On this occasion, on behalf of the congress as well as the entire party and all Cambodians, I thank the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, and other parties for their concrete support of our congress.

The congress would like to thank friendly countries both near and far, international organizations, personages, politicians, and peace- and justice-loving people throughout the world for supporting the correct cause of the Cambodian people under CPP leadership over the past nearly 13 years and for their tireless contributions to peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

Dear congress, the success of our congress clearly attests to the success of the ideals of reform, the mastery, and the wisdom of our party, which has been zealously supported by all party committee congresses, party committees, intellectuals, and the masses.

In response, the party sincerely thanks and commends all party members, [words indistinct] institutions, seminars, intellectuals (?at) various ministries in Phnom Penh for joining the discussions in order to improve [words indistinct].

Especially, I would like to express great joy and (?confidence in) [words indistinct] provincial and municipal party committees and all (?institutions) representing party members, cadres, combatants, workers, employees, and people throughout the country. (?We hope that all will turn this) lofty unity of views on new reforms into realities in Cambodia's political life.

From this platform, the CPP is appealing to members of all political parties, combatants, monks, people, and oveseas compatriots to continue supporting the resolution of the extraordinary congress of party representatives throughout the country, (?since this is what) the compatriots have long been waiting for, and particularly to support the party's political platform (?for) peace, national reconciliation, construction of Cambodian society in the future, which are the sublime aspirations of the motherland and people.

The CPP is appealing to all the political parties planning to participate in the upcoming legislative elections to place the interests of the motherland above all others by sincerely implementing the agreement on the political solution to the Cambodia problem, in order to achieve the genuine and durable peace of Cambodia, mutual trust, coexistence, and new cooperation to bring about rapid development, as experienced by countries throughout the world.

The CPP is also appealing to the political parties in various countries, governments, international organizations, social organizations, and peace- and justice-loving people throughout the world to support the just cause of the (?Cambodian people and nation).

We are firmly convinced that, due to the CPP's political program and with the sympathy [words indistinct], the fervent hope of every Cambodian will certainly be fulfilled, and that the Cambodian ship will be brought to the shore of peace in the future.

Long Live the Cambodian People's Party! [Applause]
Long Live the Angkor Motherland! [Applause]

Everything is for Peace and National Reconciliation in Cambodia!

With great elation over the brilliant outcome of the past work, I declare this congress closed. Thank you. [Applause]

Welcomes Success of Congress

BK1910123591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Address by Chea Sim to welcome the success of the 17-18 October national congress of the Cambodian People's Party in Phnom Penh on 19 October—recorded]

[Text] Revered clergy, your excellencies, dear ladies and gentlemen, and respected participants:

First of all, I, on behalf of all delegates of the extraordinary national congress of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]—formerly known as the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party—would like to express our most sincere respect to the cadres, party members, combatants, Buddhist monks, intellectuals, workers, employees, and compatriots in and outside the country who have been waiting for the congress outcome and who have been helping and supporting the just cause of our party and people. Our party deeply thanks the parties, governments, and people of near and distant countries and all the international progressive peace- and justice- loving organizations worldwide for supporting our CPP and offering their best and friendliest wishes for the congress.

On this solemn occasion, I wish to inform the compatriots inside the country and abroad, as well as every international circle, that the CPP's 17-18 October extraordinary national congress has concluded with brilliant success. The congress has unanimously adopted the CPP's new amended political platform and statute and has also reorganized the party leadership hierarchy. In particular, it has allowed for the election of a party chairman and a vice chairman and has appointed an honorary chairman. Our party's political program endorsed by the congress clearly reflects the entire party's resolution to historically reform its political platform—including the policy of streamlining the party hierarchy in conformity with the reality of the situation, the nation's supreme interest, the people's aspiration, and the world's current trend. Moreover, the party platform clearly shows the goodwill stance to bring about peace and national unification with a view to mustering the forces of the entire nation in combination with international conditions to restore and develop our beloved motherland of Angkor towards prosperity and allow it to restore its appropriate international position. The CPP's consciousness—enhancing the forces of great national union without discriminating against the past, social status, political persuasion, religion, or nationality—will join forces to defend and build Cambodia according to the motto: Independence, peace, freedom, democracy, neutrality, and social progress.

The CPP has adopted a democratic framework in order to heighten the spirit of patriotism and promote relations with all countries. The country's political system is a liberal democracy [passage indistinct] which is based on the separation of powers among the legislative, the executive, and the judiciary; the country's president and National Assembly will be chosen by the people through general, direct, and secret elections; and the government will be responsible to this National Assembly. Citizens have the right and freedom to express their views; hold meetings; play politics; defend themselves in court; set up associations, social organizations, and political parties; and adhere to any religion. The party upholds Buddhism as the state religion and ensures all religious activities in the country, but it opposes the recurrence of the disaster that occured between 1975 and 1978. All state institutions and citizens should respect the Constitution, which is the state's supreme law.

The issue of human rights—a special issue in Cambodia's history—is well defined in our party's political program. Our party will, however, remain under every circumstance the leading political party in protecting human rights against the return of the previous policies that had brought great danger to the nation and people. Along with this, our party is prepared to cooperate with other political parties which have the same objective of creating a national movement to protect human rights.

The CPP will implement a free-market economy which permits all types of economic trade. The state guarantees the current rights to own land, homes, property, and production equipment and vows to not carry out nationalization. The state also ensures the free movement of merchandise throughout the country. It will permit investment inside and outside the country, will enhance ties between local and overseas markets, and will work to promote rural development with a view to narrowing the gap between the living conditions in the country and the city. Primarily, it will create favorable conditions for farmers to earn a living. As already defined in the political platform, our party in this spirit will not levy taxes on farm land for five to 10 years beginning in 1992. The state will also exempt or reduce taxes to favor companies importing agricultural equipment and will assist them in exporting some quantity of rubber, timber, and cereal. This will be regulated by the state.

As for socioeconomic policy, I have the honor of informing our compatriots that the CPP will continue to firmly maintain the current ownership situation. Our party will, under any circumstances and at all costs, defend the people's interests on the basis of the existing law on land, homes, property, [words indistinct], as well as the value of the riel currently in [words indistinct]. We will categorically oppose some political parties' intention to eliminate the people's current legal ownership and to abolish the riel. Moreover, our party pledges to protect foreign companies doing business with our Cambodia state by honoring past contracts at all times. The CPP will protect and restore the nation's cultural heritage, promote the well-being of the rural and urban people by constantly improving health education and the prevention and treatment of sickness and other daily living conditions both quantitatively and qualitatively. The party will pay further attention to former combatants, disabled and retired persons, orphans, old people, war victims, and unsupported people. Labor and other kinds of work will be protected by law in the laborers' interest. [Words indistinct], the party intends to build a clean and democratic nation which enjoys prosperity and is able to preserve the fine national tradition and customs. The CPP statute, whose amendments were made based on the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party statute, is in line with the political program and a multi-party system. It also conforms with the goal of uniting all political forces within the nation for the cause of building and developing the country. This is the party's main objective.

In reviewing the Cambodian nation's development over nearly 13 years, which is now making progress towards peace, the congress notes with profound gratitude the unforgettable and great sacrifices made by our cadres, combatants, and people who have joined forces to realize the CPP's valuable goals of national salvation, rebirth, and unification.

The congress enthusiastically welcomes and endorses the speech solemnly made by His Excellency Hun Sen and considers it an annex to the CPP political platform. It wishes to sincerely thank all near and distant friendly countries, international organizations, dignitaries, politicians, and peace- and justice-loving people around the world for their assistance and support to the just cause of the Cambodian people under CPP leadership during the past nearly 13 years and their tireless contributions to peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia. The CPP Central Committee pledges to the entire party and people that it will stand by the people, share their hardship and happiness, remain loyal to the party consciousness, and actively implement the party political program. This is to bring to fruition the people's sacred aspiration to build an independent, peaceful, liberal, and democratic Cambodia with social progress, contributing to the cause of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world.

The CPP calls on all party members, combatants, Buddhist monks, workers, employees, all strata of people throughout the country, dignitaries, intellectuals, and the overseas compatriots to continue providing support to make the party political program a reality in Cambodian society. The CPP appeals to all political parties to put the interests of the nation and motherland above all others, to faithfully implement with the spirit of national reconciliation all agreements reached for the cause of peace, thereby speedily restoring and developing the country and nation towards prosperity as enjoyed by other countries the world over. The CPP pledges that, after the elections, it will enhance close solidarity with all political parties and other patriotic forces that have different political persuasions to restore the nation in the future. For the sake of the aforesaid cause and consciouness, the CPP endorses Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's candidacy in the future presidential election and considers this the most appropriate formula to prevent Cambodia from suffering new political crises. The CPP also calls on political parties in various countries, governments, international organizations, social organizations, and peace- and justice-loving people the world over to support the just cause of the CPP and the Cambodian people.

Long live the Cambodian People's Party!
Everything is for peace and national unification in Cambodia!
Everything is for national survival and the Cambodian people's interests!

Comments on Changes

BK2110075891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 21 Oct 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Oct 21 (AFP)—Chea Sim, the new head of Cambodia's formerly communist and now democratic ruling party, said Monday he is not a hardliner.

"If I am a hardliner, if I am one to oppose (Prime Minister) Hun Sen, I don't think Hun Sen could practice the economic policy he is practicing today," Chea Sim told a selected group of foreign journalists.

Chea Sim—who also chairs the National Assembly and has been known to have differences with Hun Sen—said relations with the prime minister have never been better.

"His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen and I are very close friends," he said. "We do not pursue two roads, but one road together. If we are in conflict, I don't think the situation of Cambodia could have achieved such stability as it has today."

Chea Sim also dismissed a report that his predecessor as party leader was ousted in a power struggle.

"This does not mean any internal crisis at all. It's just the normal political life of the party," he said.

Chea Sim was named president of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) at an extraordinary party congress last week, taking over from the uncharismatic Heng Samrin, who used to be party general secretary until he was given the ceremonial position of honorary president.

The CPP, formerly the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, changed its name and doctrines at the congress to adopt a multi-party system and a free market economy, on the eve of next week's signing of an agreement to end the country's 13 year civil war .

"His Excellency Mr. Heng Samrin still has an important role in the Cambodian People's Party," Chea Sim said without specifying what the role would be. Party sources here said Heng Samrin was asked to step down by Hun Sen during days of behind-the-scenes wrangling during the congress.

"It is misinformation that Mr. Hun Sen kicked Heng Samrin out ... it is not like this," Chea Sim said. "If there was any force or coercion ... we would not have achieved that atmosphere of cooperation and friendliness at the extraordinary party congress."

But despite Chea Sim's pledges, he continued to express reservations about the pace of economic reform.

"It is our big concern to control the situation, to keep it normal," Chea Sim said. "It is also our concern that it is progressing too quickly, but we hope its evolution will be in the framework of our control."

Addressing the question of the arrest and detention of dissidents who tried to form their own political party 17 months ago, Chea Sim said allowing multi-party democracy before its time would have slowed the peace process.

"During that time, if we had allowed the formation of political parties, it would have slowed down the finding of a settlement of the Cambodian situation," he said.

He also warned anyone thinking about breaking from the party to wait until after the peace agreement is signed in Paris on Wednesday by Phnom Penh and the three guerrilla factions opposed to the Vietnam-installed government here.

"It is mentioned in the framework of the agreement ... so right now it is in conflict with the situation," he said.

He also reminded any potential political group that it will need 5,000 members to establish itself as a party, as spelled out in the peace accord.

SPK Denies Hun Sen, Heng Samrin Dispute

BK1810121891 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1130 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Oct (SPK)—In an unfounded, tendentious dispatch published on 17 October 1991, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reported that Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, "demanded the resignation of Mr. Heng Samrin," president of the State of Cambodia and secretary general of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, in a "heated dispute" during a party meeting on 16 October.

Integrity being a quality of a serious press agency, AFP has discredited itself through its correspondents' irresponsible work and through its publishing of speculative news in pursuit of a goal beyond loyally informing the public on the unfolding of events.

SPK categorically rejects these irresponsible allegations, and declares that the congress of the Cambodian People's Party has proceeded in an atmosphere of understanding and national unity.

VOK on Changes in Phnom Penh Communist Party

BK2010035791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] The communist regime in Phnom Penh made an important change to present a new face in preparation for the election which is expected to take place soon.

The Phnom Penh communist regime, propped up by the invading Vietnamese troops who seized power in Cambodia from the Khmer Rouge regime, announced the end of its 13-year old communist regime. However, the congress of Heng Samrin regime's communist party, which looked like a power struggle, announced the dismissal of Heng Samrin from the position of chairman of the Pracheachun Party [Kanakpak Pracheachun] and his replacement by Chea Sim, a veteran communist. Hun Sen will take the position of vice chairman of the party, formerly a communist party in the Indochinese communist alliance.

Analysts have perceived these changes to be the last preparations for avoiding the dissolution or dismantling of the communist group in Cambodia by gathering the communists under the labels of liberal democracy and multi-partyism to conform with the Cambodian peace plan.

Son Sann Departs for Paris Cambodia Conference

BK1910150391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and His Excellency Ieng Muli, secretary general of the KPNLF executive committee and SNC member, left Bangkok for Paris on the afternoon of 18 October to attend the meeting signing the final settlement to end the war in Cambodia, scheduled to be held on 21, 22, and 23 October.

Accompanying their Excellencies Son Sann and Ieng Muli are General Chum Chieng, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of internal affairs; Penn Thol, cabinet chief of the KPNLF president, member of the SNC secretariat, and delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of economic affairs; Pol Ham, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of information; Meas Chanleap, KPNLF embassador to Japan; and Keat Sokun, assistant of the KPNLF secretary general.

The following is the agenda of the three-day meeting:
On the morning of Wednesday 23 October, French President Francois Mitterand will present a speech to open the conference, which will be followed by the addresses of 18 countries' foreign ministers. SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will deliver a speech as well on behalf of the SNC.

The peace treaty will be signed after the foreign ministers from the 18 countries give their speeches. These countries include the UN Security Council's five permanent members, the six ASEAN states, and Australia, Canada, India, Japan, Laos, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

During the first two days of the international conference on Cambodia, which will be held on 21-22 October, the coordinating committee of the Paris international conference on Cambodia will hold its last discussion on the peace document for Cambodia.

Hun Sen-led Delegation Leaves for Paris Meeting

BK2010141691 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] [Passage indistinct] the State of Cambodia's Supreme National Council delegation, led by His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia Council of Ministers, left Phnom Penh for Paris, France to attend the Paris international conference on Cambodia and to sign a peace agreement on Cambodia.

His Excellency Hun Sen and his delegation were seen off at Pochentong Airport by: His Excellency Say Phuthang, member of the standing committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of State; His Excellency General Bou Thang, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; His Excellency Chea Soth, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; His Excellency Sar Kheng, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee, chef de cabinet of the CPP Central Committee, and chairman of the CPP Central Committee Organization Commission; His Excellency Say Chhum, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; His Excellency Mat Ly, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee Control Commission; Mrs. Men Sam-an, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and chairwoman of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions; His Excellency Nguon Nhel, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and agriculture minister; His Excellency Ney Pena, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee Control Commission; His Excellency Gen. Sin Song, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and interior minister; His Excellency Sim Ka, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and secretary of Phnom Penh City's party committee; His Excellency Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and chief of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces General Staff; His Excellency Lt. Gen. Ke Kimyan, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and first deputy defense minister; His Excellency Kong Sam-ol; member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, as well as other excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, ministers and their deputies, general directors and their deputies, and several leading cadres from the central institutions and Phnom Penh.

Government, KPNLF Troops Clash Near Border

BK2010120291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] BANGKOK, Oct 20 AFP)—Fighting has broken out in Cambodia near the border with Thailand just three days before the country's factions are due to sign a peace agreement, a Phnom Penh government officer stationed on the border said Sunday.

The fighting, which began Saturday, was between Phnom Penh government forces and troops of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPLNF) and took place about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the border.

Shelling could be heard in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet as Phnom Penh forces fired mortars and multiple rocket launchers at KPNLF positions, a resident said.

The Phnom Penh officer said the fighting erupted over a dispute involving trade routes between the Cambodian district town of Sispohon and the Thai border.

Officials: Government 'Forced' To Accept Peace

BK1910022491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0203 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Pehn, Oct 19 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government had little choice but to sue for the peace which is to be signed in Paris next week to end Cambodia's 13-year-old civil war.

Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States—the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—had decided that the four warring factions were going to sign a peace agreement.

Faced with a cutoff in aid from the Soviet Union, the ravages of a war-battered and isolated economy and intense political pressure, Phnom Penh made some serious concessions for peace, foreign and local analysts here say.

"This country was put in a corner," said one Western observer who could not be identified. "No more help from the Russians, no more from the Vietnamese. They didn't have any choice."

Moscow, which had supported the Phnom Penh government with food and financial aid since Vietnam installed it in power in 1979, had its own serious problems and could no longer afford to be propping up governments around the world.

In 1990 it told Phnom Penh it was slashing its aid by 80 percent.

"Now our aid is almost entirely suspended. We don't have anything more to give. This is the reality," a Soviet diplomat here said.

"This is one reason that Phnom Penh was forced to find a settlement," he added. "But it's not the foremost reason, compared to global political factors."

Most diplomats and observers interviewed here say China's decision to quit funding the Khmer Rouge resistance faction and turn toward rekindling its relations with Vietnam was the major factor that pushed the sides to settle their dispute.

"Everyone wanted to solve this, either because it was in their interests or because they had no choice," another Western observer said. "Phnom Penh wanted peace, no matter what the price."

The fact that the resistance factions weren't gaining militarily and were losing the support of China forced them to the negotiating table as well, he said.

"With the cutoff of Soviet aid, China decided it was time to settle. It was a convergence of interests."

The Phnom Penh government is broke.

Although actual revenue figures are nearly impossible to obtain, U.N. experts examining the economy here have estimated the government spends 80 percent of its revenue just to pay its civil servants an average salary of 12 dollars per month.

The war and almost complete isolation from the West during a U.S.-enforced economic embargo have left this country's infrastructure in a mess.

The streets of Phnom Penh are pocked with axle-breaking potholes. Only four main roads, where the powerful heads of government live, have street lights. Fewer than 20 percent of the people living here have running water, and only the very rich have a regular electricity supply or a telephone.

The government is badly in need of Western aid and loans from financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Phnom Penh officials have said they are not entirely happy with the peace accord, which gives the Khmer Rouge credibility and allows it to take part in an internationally recognized government.

"The U.N. peace plan will legalize the Khmer Rouge after the agreement is signed," Foreign Minister Hor Namhong told reporters here recently.

"They will have representatives in the National Assembly. They will have political parties. So one could say the agreement is not 100 percent good, but at least we have ended the war," he said.

Another area of compromise for Phnom Penh was the word "genocide." The government here had insisted the word be included in the peace agreement to describe the atrocities committed during the Khmer Rouge reign of terror between 1975 and 1979.

Hor Namhong said in September that Phnom Penh was dropping that point of contention, but he has since cautioned that the possibility of the return of the Khmer Rouge to power was still a primary concern.

"This will be a long-term threat in the future," he said.

Indonesia

Minister Previews SRV Premier's Oct Visit

BK2110104091 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct. 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia is expecting that Vietnam Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's imminent visit to Indonesia would help accelerate talks on the two countries' still undefined continental shelves, says Minister/State Secretary Murdiono.

Vo is scheduled to be in Indonesia on October 24-27, Murdiono announced on Monday.

"Indonesia expects that Vo's visit will speed up talks towards reaching agreement between the two countries. This is important for both Indonesia and Vietnam," he said.

Once an agreement on the continental shelf has been reached, Vietnam will also have the right to explore for oil in the seabed of the disputed waters, he said.

Murdiono said two agreements, one on investment promotion and another on sea and air transportation, were due to be signed during Vo's visit.

During his visit, Vo will have meetings with President Suharto, Vice President Sudharmono, Defence Minister L.B. Murdani, Finance Minister J.B. Sumarlin, and Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno.

He will talk to Indonesian businessmen and give a press conference on October 25. He will leave Jakarta for Indonesia's resort island of Bali on October 26. He will leave Indonesia for home from Jakarta the next day.

Vietnam's deputy defence minister, deputy prime minister, and deputy foreign minister will come with Vo.

Armed Forces Chief Meets Philippine Counterpart

BK1810031291 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], paid a courtesy call on Gen. Try Sutrisno, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI], at the ABRI General Headquarters in Jakarta yesterday. The AFP chief of staff thanked Indonesia on behalf of his government for providing aid to Filipinos affected by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. He regarded the aid as a symbol of good cooperation among fellow ASEAN members.

Gen. Try Sutrisno said military relations and cooperation between fellow ASEAN members focus on mutual cooperation and are not embodied in any military pact. According to the Armed Forces commander, relations among the ASEAN members are not restricted to formalities and protocols but tend to be more informal.

UN Envoy Urges New Strategy To Stop Arms Race

BK1810114691 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Indonesia has called for the creation of a more comprehensive strategy to stop the arms race and promote disarmament. Speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York today, Nana Sutresna, Indonesian permanent representative to the United Nations, said piecemeal efforts, especially those aimed at curbing nuclear arms race, have proven to be inadequate.

He said that, despite significant progress in the international political and security situation, the arms race, especially in terms of quality, still continues. Global military spending has been reduced—but not in a dramatic way—and arms trade continues unabated. Nana Sutresna stressed that what is needed now is a new integrated approach that includes arms reduction and disarmament.

Ruling Party To Wait To Nominate Candidate

BK1710161391 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1018 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct. 17 (OANA-ANTARA)—The chief of the ruling Functional Group Golkar, Wahono, said here on Thursday that Golkar would not make a statement on nomination of presidential candidates saying it was not ethical to treat presidential nomination as a political commodity.

Constitutionally, it is the MPR (People's Consultative Assembly), which has the right and authority to nominate a president and it will do it in the general assembly. Golkar does not want to go ahead of the assembly, he said during the 3rd Golkar leadership meeting.

The United Development Party (PPP) and the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) through their leaders have recently made statements in support of the nomination of current President Suharto to again head the state for the next 1993-1998 term.

Wahono said Golkar would remain consistent with the existing rules of the game. "We think the existing regulations about the nomination of the president and the vice president found in the 1945 Constitution as well as the MPR decisions are clear enough so that their implementation need to be institutionalized", he said.

Another aspect of concern to Golkar regarding the mentioning of presidential nominees before the general elections is that it will only impress and even invite perceptions and even judgements as if the general elections are merely aimed at confirming a candidate.

Regarding the general elections, Wahono said that they were actually a democratic competition in offering and popularizing programs.

Golkar, as it wishes to live and be active very long, is called to remain on the people's support and power, he said.

We let the people judge openly and freely as well as democratically each of the Golkar's programs, without being influenced by other factors, particularly man factor, he added.

If it wants to be simple, Golkar can promise from now by naming Suharto, for example, and we believe it will be supported by the people, but this will mean that Golkar will win the elections just because of Suharto and not because its programs are good and accepted by the people, he said.

Golkar does not want to mention any names for the sake of general elections but will do it before the (MPR) General Assembly in line with the existing MPR procedures, he said.

Wahono referred among other things to ideological aspect and development continuation as the reasons behind the need for Golkar to win the elections.

Pancasila (the state ideology), which has been adopted as the sole principle for the social life, statehood, and nationhood still needs consolidation and reinforcement.

He said views and opinions which sporadically sprang up here and there during especially discussions on democracy often tended to forget the noble values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, he explained.

These views and opinions sometimes even tend to adopt liberal democratic values or refer to conflict patterns or contradictive point of view which are not adhered to by Pancasila and the 1945 Constituion, he added.

Laos

Foreign Minister Leaves for Paris Conference

BK1910063191 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, left Vientiane for Paris, the French capital, yesterday afternoon to attend an international conference on settling the Cambodian problem. The conference will be held soon in Paris. An official from the Foreign Affairs Ministry said at Wattai Airport prior to Phoun Sipaseut's departure that, during the international conference on finding a political settlement for the Cambodian problem, Phoun Sipaseut, together with the delegates from 19 other countries attending the conference, will sign a peace treaty on a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian probelm. The 19 other countries include five member countries of the UN Security Council, five ASEAN member countries, Laos, Vietnam, Australia, Canada, Japan, and others.

This will be the final conference to discuss the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem through peaceful means. It will cover the settlement of all issues concerning Cambodia.

Phoun Sipaseut was seen off at the airport by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance; Phao Bounnaphon, minister of foreign economic relations; along with a number of concerned cadres from the Foreign Ministry. Daniel Dupont, French ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, was also on hand to see off Phoun Sipaseut at the airport.

Prime Minister To Visit PRC in 'Near Future'

BK2010032491 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Oct 91

["Statement of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic"—date not given]

[Text] At the invitation of PRC Premier Li Peng, Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, will pay an official friendship visit to the PRC in the near future.

Party School Delegation Returns From PRC Visit

BK1710135291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] This afternoon, the delegation of the advanced party-state school led by Sileua Bounkham, member of the party Central Committee and director of the school, returned from a visit to the PRC.

During its stay in that country from 4 to 15 October, the delegation exchanged lessons on the teaching and training of cadres with its counterpart at the advanced party school of the CPC Central Committee. It also visited some economic foundations in many Chinese provinces to exchange experience with the Chinese authorities. Through this visit, the delegation was able to vastly assess the outcome of mutual relations and assistance between the two parties and states in general, and between the two party-state schools in particular.

Radio Describes Delegations' PRC Visits

BK2010080491 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] During their visits to the PRC, the high-level delegation of the Ministry of Education and Sports, led by Minister Saman Vi-gnaket, and the delegation of the Interior Ministry, led by Minister A-sang Laoli, called on some Chinese leaders and visited a number of production bases, cadre training centers, and some ancient ruins.

Reports said that Saman Vi-gnaket met and exchanged views with (?Li Tieying), councillor and chairman of the (?Chinese State Education Commission), to discuss various issues of mutual interest. In the field of educational development in particular, the two sides agreed that they should cooperate with each other in promoting this work in the future.

The delegation of the Ministry of Interior, led by Minister A-sang Laoli, called on Wang Fang, Chinese state councillor. The two sides paid special interest to the contacts between the two countries, especially by the people living along the Chinese-Lao border. The two sides were in agreement that it is necessary to cooperate with each other in maintaining peace and security at many border crossing points to facilitate smooth travel and trade exchange between the two peoples living along the border.

The visits to the PRC by the two high-level Lao delegations were aimed at strengthening the solidarity and cooperation of mutual benefit which are being developed for the better with every passing day.

Thank-You Message Received From PRC Leaders

BK1710135091 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Recently, Kaysone Phomvihan, Nouhak Phoumsavan, Khamtai Siphandon, and Phoun Sipaseut received a thank-you message from the PRC leaders—Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun, Li Peng, Wan Li, and Qian Qichen—for our leaders' congratulations sent to them on the occasion of the 42d anniversary of the PRC national day.

First Border Marker With Burma Erected

BK1810151991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] According to regional reports, on 15 October at the Lao-Myanmar [Burma] border area between Ban

Mon village in Ton Pheung District of Laos and (Ban Vang Pong) village in Myanmar, a ceremony was held to erect the first border demarcation post between the two countries after the Technical Border Committees of Laos and Myanmar have cooperated with each other to carry out the survey of the borderline for more than one year.

The ceremony planting the first border demarcation post was attended by: Kideng Thammavong, Lao ambassador to Myanmar; U Maung Maung Lay, Myanmar ambassador to Laos; Ouan Phommachak, chairman of the Lao-Myanmar Technical Border Committees; (Sam Nil), chairman of the Myanmar-Lao Border Technical Committee; members of the two committees; some high-ranking local authorities; and a large number of local Lao and Myanmar citizens.

Laos and Myanmar shares a common border of 236 km—some 100 of which have already been surveyed. Technical border authorities of the two sides are currently carrying out the survey of the rest of the borderline.

Central Committee Greets Cambodian Congress

BK1710100591 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] The Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee sent greetings to the extraordinary congress of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] in Phnom Penh yesterday. The message reads as follows:

On the convening of the extraordinary congress of the KPRP, on behalf of the LPRP Central Committee, party members, and all laboring people of Laos, we would like to convey our wholehearted greetings and best wishes to the congress delegates and, through you, to all of Cambodia's party members and laboring people.

This KPRP congress is a very significant event in the political life of the party, as it has been convened while the Cambodian problem is being comprehensively settled through political means, in conformity with the aspirations of all Cambodian people who desire peace and national reconciliation. We are convinced that, on this occasion, your party congress will significantly contribute to building and developing the country for peace, progress, and the just interests of the Cambodian people.

On this glorious occasion, we wish this extraordinary congress of the KPRP glorious success.

Somlat Chanthamat, Cambodian Envoy Hold Talks

BK1710092591 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] At the guest hall of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Party Central Committee in Vientiane on the afternoon of 15 October, Somlat Chanthamat, Political Bureau member and head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, received a farewell call from Long Kem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], who has completing his three-year diplomatic tenure in the LPDR.

The guest and host held friendly talks. Somlat Chanthamat praised the ambassador's achievements in contributing to promoting and improving the special relations between Laos and Cambodia. He also expressed support for the present means of settling the Cambodian problem, saying it conforms with the aspirations of the Cambodian people as well as other people in Asia and the rest of the world.

Philippines

U.S. Asked To Begin Talks on Bases Withdrawal

HK1810122891 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation in Tagalog 1100 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Malacanang has already sent Washington the diplomatic note asking for an executive agreement between the Philippines and the United States on the orderly withdrawal of American military bases from the country. This was announced by Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, who also said that the diplomatic note was signed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus. The note was sent through the U.S. Embassy here.

In the diplomatic note, the Philippine Government invites the U.S. Government to start talks on the proposed three-year military bases withdrawal.

Government To Demand 3-Year Withdrawal Period

HK2110013591 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The Aquino Government will insist that the U.S. forces observe the three-year withdrawal period when the negotiations start this week. President Corazon Aquino expressed optimism that the Philippines and the United States will reach an agreement on the three-year withdrawal period in the near future.

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said the antibases senators' proposal for a one-year withdrawal period would be impractical and would endanger the friendly relations between the two countries.

In his speech at the National Congress of the League of Barangay Councilmen, Drilon said that the three-year withdrawal period should be ratified so that the $362 million in Philippine economic aid pending with the U.S. Congress would be approved. He also stressed that the country needs to maintain friendly relations with other countries of the world, especially with the superpowers and particularly with the United States.

The $362 million which might be granted to the Philippines will be used by the government to rehabilitate the areas most severely affected by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

Talks To Be Held at Manila Hotel

HK2110102891 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes announced that talks on the Republic of the Philippines [RP]-U.S. executive agreement on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Subic Naval Base will formally start this week at the Manila Hotel, not at the Central Bank Building, where the RP-U.S. bases negotiation were held. According to Paredes the government will press for a three-year withdrawal period. Paredes will be the spokesman for the Philippine withdrawal panel.

Aquino Prepares Peaceful Government Transition

HK2110053091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Oct 91 p 11

[By Nimfa Rueda]

[Text] The Aquino administration will focus its efforts on ensuring "smooth and peaceful" transition of government in its remaining eight months inpower, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said over the weekend.

"This administration is working at all the possible means to ensure that transition of political power to the next administration in 1992 will be peaceful and honest," Drilon told the League of Barangay Councilmenof the Philippines (LBCP) second national congress at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium Saturday.

Drilon said Malacanang's program of action (POA) in the next eight months before President Aquino's term ends will be focused on this goal.

Drilon also announced that President Aquino has ordered Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Jose de Jesus to complete all infrastructure projects nationwide before the Commission on Elections declares the 60-day election ban.

Another priority of the government, he said, is the immediate implementation of an Executive Agreement with the U.S. on a three-year base withdrawal period.

"The Executive Agreement with the U.S. is also considered a priority of the Aquino administration. We hope that this would settle the problem regarding the military bases here," Drilon said.

He said the three-year time frame will give the 40,000 base workers enough time to look for other jobs.

Drilon reiterated that the country must maintain its strong ties with the U.S.

Drilon also told the barangay councilmen that with the implementation of the Local Government Code next year, the barangay councilmen would play a major role in next year's elections.

"Malaking bagay po ang gagampanan ninyo sa susunod na taon. Kaya bilang miyembro ng barangay councilmen, kayo ay mamumuno sa ating bayan upang kung sa ganon ay magkaroon tayo ng malinis at matapat na halalan sa Mayo (You will play a major role next year. You will lead and help our country have clean and honest elections in May)," he said.

Drilon also cited the need for a strong political foundation which, he said, would pave the way for the smooth implementation of the government's Economic Recovery Program [ERP].

The ERP covers the Economic Stabilization Program which aims to bring down fiscal deficit through revenue-raising measures and a reduction in government spending.

The program also provides for tighter economic policies and other economic reforms particularly in the areas of trade and investment.

Meanwhile, President Aquino will launch tomorrow a special financing problem to further enhance agricultural productivity and encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises in areas covered by the agrarian reform.

The Department of Agrarian Reform has allocated P600 [Philippine pesos] million from the appropriation for Agrarian Reform.

Senate Seeks Suspension of Nuclear Loan Payments

HK2110032391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 21 Oct 91 p 3

[By reporter Jose H. Macaspac III]

[Text] The Senate will step up pressures to force the Aquino government to suspend payment of the controversial loan on the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP], according to Senate Majority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Guingona told NEWSDAY in an interview that several senators were provided crucial evidence that tended to show that the major financiers had a direct hand in the anomalous transaction that saw the Philippines incurring a "tainted" multi-billion peso debt which it is obligated to settle.

"Let the developments in the investigation speak for themselves," said Guingona, who exposed the involvement of the two principal banks—Citicorp and Asia Pacific—in the loan. He expressed confidence that during the Senate probe, the banks' "lender's liability" could be determined to provide the government with a reason to order a suspension of the payment of the loan.

Guingona admitted that despite evidence that had been uncovered indicating that the loan was fraudulent, the government had insisted on paying the BNPP debt "because our economic managers are desirous of new money from the foreign banks."

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. are spearheading the "securitization" move of the debt papers.

It was learned that the foreign creditor banks had demanded that the Philippines securitize its debts, including the BNPP loan, as a prerequisite for new loans and monetary assistance for the country.

But Guingona and two other senators—Rene Saguisag and Alberto Romulo—insisted that the government should stop settling the debt altogether, arguing that it was "tainted."

The senators believe they have found the "smoking gun," or telling evidence, with the disclosure of 15 documents that indicated how the loan was consummated by the two banks and by Marcos crony Herminio Desini, who was then acting as a special representative of the government.

"However," Guingona said, "adjustments would have to be made if the complicity of Citicorp and Asia Pacific was determined," particularly on the Estanislao-Cuisia "scheme" to include the BNPP debt among the regular debt papers to be securitized.

"Why should the common man be made to pay for an anomaly?" Guingona asked.

He said the Senate would continue to try to sway President Aquino to suspend the loan payments despite the proposal of members of the Executive-Legislative Debt Council to endorse the securitization scheme of Estanislao and Cuisia.

Government Rejects Communist Proposal for Talks

HK2110035291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Oct 91 p 1, 12

[Text] The government has rejected an offer by the communist-led National Democratic Front [NDF] to hold peace talks abroad, Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa said yesterday.

De Villa siad the offer came from exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison and conveyed to the government by NDF leaders late last year. Sison is based in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

"We are dealing with an internal problem. We should settle this here," the defense chief said in explaining the government's rejection of the proposed talks. "We are not Kampuchea or Afghanistan."

The Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its military arm, the New People Army [NPA], have been waging war against the government since 1969. Both are members of the NDF.

The NDF offer did not specify the country where it wanted the talks held, but De Villa presumed it would be in Europe where exiled communist leaders are based.

The rebel group has offered peace talks on the national level, but the government has decided to hold instead dialogs with regional leaders of the NDF, CPP, and NPA.

"At the moment, they are not biting because they want a national dialog in a foreign land," De Villa said.

He said the offer came long before Luis Jalandoni, head of the NDF international department, met with government representatives in Hong Kong early September.

De Villa said the government has given the communists a choice between continued violence or "come out and join the political exercise."

"If they want violence, we can fight for another 20 years," he said.

De Villa noted a trend of "continuing decline" of communism, saying it would be "a matter of time" when the local communists will accept the regional peace process adopted by the government.

De Villa warned of an escalation of insurgency-related violence "in the next few months because they (local communists) want to prop itself up for morale and public recognition."

An NPA spokesman during the week said his group was willing to hold peace dialogs in Southern Tagalog where the military has declared a ceasefire and offered safe conduct passes to three rebel leaders.

But many CPP-NPA-NDF prefer talks on the national level.

Communist Rebels Urge Talks on U.S. Hostage

HK2110035091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Oct 91 p 1

[By Sid Balatan]

[Text] New People's Army [NPA] guerillas in Northern Luzon yesterday said they have been holding a retired U.S. Army major for about a year and urged negotiations for his release.

In a statement, the NPA Lt. [Lieutenant] Crispin Tagamolila Command and the National Democratic Front [NDF] in the region identified the hostage as Arbie Duane Drown [name as published] who was described as "a retired U.S. Army (Airborne) major and veteran of the Korean War."

Drown was apprehended in October 1990 in western Aparri, Cagayan, "at the height of an intense AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] operation," according to the statement signed by Noli Libertad, NPA and NDF regional spokesman.

"Mr. Drown is in good physical condition and is well taken care of," the statement said. It, however, expressed concern over the American's safety due to ongoing military operations in their area.

The military offensive had "many times directly threatened" Drown's well-being and "interfered in our attempts to verify his whereabouts and personal identity," the statement said.

The rebels accused U.S. embassy officials of "intransigence" which, they said, is causing the delay to clear Drown's status.

They advised the American's family and friends to initiate negotiations with them for his release.

"We suggest (they) initiate a link-up and direct negotiation with us through some individuals in the religious sector and in the mass media whom we respect," Libertad said.

He said the negotiators must produce Drown's "proper identification and to help us create some other favorable conditions, so that we could make our proper course of action in the soonest time possible."

The NPA statement was sent to journalists and newspaper offices.

Earlier, the NPA Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Command proposed a one-month ceasefire in Northern Luzon to pave the way for the release of 11 policemen and soldiers captured after an NPA ambush in the Cordilleras.

The military has launched a big operation in Northern Luzon, particularly Marag Valley in Kalinga-Apayao where communist rebels are believed to have set up a provisional government.

Rebel Officer Says Power Seizure Remains Goal

HK2110112391 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Rebel soldiers remain a threat to the Aquino government and will move against her at the right time. In an interview with PHILIPPINE GRAPHIC magazine, renegade Navy Commodore Domingo Calajate has said that the rebels reserve the right to use force when all other alternatives have failed. Calajate is one of the top officials of the rebel group Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM], which was involved in the coup attempt in December 1989. He said that RAM has not abandoned its goal to grab power through violence.

Military Rebels: Plot To Kill Honasan Exists

HK2110054791 Quezon City MALAYA in English 19 Oct 91 p 1

[By Noel Bartolome, Romy Tangbawan, and Marie Jose Feliciano]

[Text] A former Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) member confirmed yesterday that there was indeed a plot to assassinate former Lt Col. Gregorio Honasan and other top military rebels, saying this was known as early as the middle of last year.

Navy Capt Rex Robles, a founder of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement but who is now in the active service, said: "We knew all along about this (assassination plot) from our contacts, but we chose to remain silent." Robles is now assigned at the Naval District 6 in Zamboanga City.

Robles made the disclosure in a radio interview over station DZBB [Greater Manila Arts Radio].

Robels, who was earlier detailed in Legazpi City after a nine-month house arrest following the Aug. 27, 1987 coup attempt, said that while in Bicol he received information on the arrival in the area of three men, including a foreigner, who were trying to contact communist rebels to liquidate leaders of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance], another name of RAM.

Robles said the foreigner could have been Jack Terrell, an American mercenary who has charged that he was hired by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus to kill RAM officers and political rivals of President Aquino.

"Interesting things will happen in the next several days," Robels said, but did not elaborate.

The Rebolusyonaryong Alyansa ng Makabayang Mamamayan [Revolutionary Alliance of Nationalist Citizens/RAMM] said to be the new name for RAM-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [SFP-YOU], said Terrell's expose is just the tip of the grand plot of the government to kill top military rebels and other prominent personalities by hiring foreign assassins.

In a letter to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (NP) [Nationalist Party], RAMM officers said the plot, codenamed "Project Jeremiah," has financial backing from businessmen close to President Aquino.

"Project Jeremiah" was reportedly hatched after the failed December 1989 coup attempt upon the recommendation of Mrs Aquino's closest advisers.

Malacanang, however, denied any government plot to assassinate leaders of the military rebels' group.

"Well, the tactic being used here is if you tell a very big lie, people tend to believe you," Press Undersecretary

Horacio Paredes said. "This is a big lie, there is no truth in this," he said but refused to comment on who could be behind the reports.

He also said this incident will not jeopardize the ongoing peace negotiations between the rebel soldiers and the governemnt, saying both sides are smart enough to know that the reports are merely attempts to disrupt the peace process.

Dr Fernando Carrascoso, general manager of the Philippine Chairty Sweepstakes Office, was also implicated by the RAMM, but be denied having anything to do with the alleged plot.

"I think the document is meant to destroy the ongoing negotiation between the government and the military rebel leaders. I did not know there was such a plot," he said.

Vice President Salvador Laurel, meanwhile, urged the Senate to investigate the matter immediately.

Col. Jaime Delos Santos, Armed Forces spokesman, said the military had no knowledge of the alleged assassination plot of Terrell.

Senior Superintendent Reynaldo Wycoco, spokesman of the Philippine National Police, branded the expose as a "comedy." "The Terrell plot is just a preposterous cock-and-bull story," he said.

While the principal targets of "Project Jeremiah" were the leaders of the RAM-SFP-YOU, prominent personalities linked to the 1989 coup try werre included in the "hit list," said the letter signed by RAMM spokesman Leonardo Gagalangin.

Among them were: Enrile, Vice President Salvador Laurel, former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza, Enrile's son Jackie Ponce Enrile, former Assemblyman Francisco Tatad, newspaper columnist Ninez Cacho Olivares, Misamis Oriental Gov. Vicente Emano, retired generals pedro Balbanero, Cesar Tapia, Jaime Echevarria, and even fromer Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos.

Also included in the list were Joaquin Venus Jr., Boy Luz, ex-journalist Cecilio Arillo, and reporter Danny Bucrafe.

The letter said the members of the core group who were to implement the project were: Rep. Jose Cojuangco (LDP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats], Tarlac), the President's younger brother and secretary-general of the ruling Laban Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats]; Shell Philippines president Cesar Buenaventura, financial adviser of the Aquino family; Paul Aquino, brother-in-law of Mrs. Aquino; and the chief security officer of Hacienda Luisita. Hacienda Luisita is owned by the President's famly.

Composing the supposed implementing group were Cojuangco, Buenaventura, Carrasocoso, Secretary Luis Santos of interior and local governments, and the Hacienda Luisita staff.

The letter said the imported "hit teams" would be assisted by local operatives: Steve Psinakis, the Greek-American brother-in-law of businessman Eugenio Lopez Jr., whose wife is Mrs. Manglapus' sister, Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao; Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan; and Bernabe "Kumander [commander]0 Dante" Buscayno, founder of the new People's Army and head of a farmers' cooperative "lavishly" funded by the Land Bank and the Office of the President.

The "local hit group," the letter said, was to include Quezon City mayor Brigido Simon Jr.; Channel 4 chairman Conrado Limcaoco; and Carlos Avila, chairman of a large government corporation and a partner of Psinakis in alleged "terrorist" activities in the United States.

Another alleged component of the project was an "electronic media play" in the U.S. and in the country to be placed under Maria Montelibano, a niece of Mrs. Aquino and in charge of the Radio-Television Office in Malacanang.

To finance the project, Makati business groups sympathetic to the government were mobilized.

They were said to have raised P74 [Philippine pesos] million, part of which went to increasing the rewards for the capture of military rebel leaders, and to increase the pay of loyal military and police officers.

Another source of funds for "Project Jeremiah" were lottery operators and financiers of the outlawed "jueteng [lottery]" gambling game.

The letter said the Aquino advisers decided to fight the military rebels "fire with fire" after assessing that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] was "hopelessly divided and could not longer be trusted to protect the administration, its officials and its allies."

During that time, intelligence reports reaching Malacanang were said tohave confirmed that the rebels, a few weeks after the foiled coup, were trying to regroup and that Guerrilla Urban Terrorist Squads or GUTS teams were being formed led by trained special forces units under the YOU to carry out bombing activities, including the assassination of the President and members of her family.

Rightwing Rebel Flees Military Detention Center

HK2110051891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 19 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] A detained civilian member of a rightwing rebel group who was involved in the armory raid at the AFP

[Armed Forces of the Philippines)0 Medical Center in Quezon City early this year, escaped yesterday from the Camp Crame stockade.

Senior Superintendent Roberto Lastimoso, Camp Crame commander, identified the escapee as Bruce Jacinto, a member of the Guardian Foundation Inc. [GFI] an outlawed military-civilian organization formed by rebel leader ex-Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan.

Lastimoso refused to give any details of the escape pending investigation of the incident.

Jacinto had been detained in Camp Crame since his arrest last February after he drove a Carlsberg shuttle bus used as the getaway vehicle of a group of civilian GFI members that raided the AFP Medical Center armory.

Four of the gunmen were intercepted by joint police and military intelligence operatives along New York st., in EDSA [Epifanio Ide los Santos Avenue], and following a brief firefight were arrested.

The government agents also recovered the assorted high-powered weapons stolen by the group from the hospital armory.

Military Exposes Communist Poll Attack Plan

HK2110022091 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Military authorities in northern, southern [as heard] Mindanao exposed the New People's Army's [NPA] plan to launch an offensive against the government before and during the elections.

This was revealed after Acting Defense Secretary Renato De Villa ordered the military to be alert for possible attacks by the NPA before their leader decides to talk with government. According to De Villa, the communists are planning to carry out destabilizing activities to pressure the government into granting their demands.

According to Brigadier General Renato Garcia, commander of the 401st Infantry Brigade, the details of the plan are described in the subversive documents the military seized from rebel hideouts in San Luis, Agusan Del Sur.

Meanwhile, six communist rebels were killed by the military in Marag Valley according to a report by Camp Aguinaldo. The six victims were encountered by 51st Infantry Battalion in Marag Valley, Kalinga Apayao. Camp Aguinaldo said that offensive operations in this Tagalog region continue. Marag Valley is considered to be one of the communist rebels' operational centers.

Military Captures Communist Official in Bulacan

HK2110102191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Oct 91

[By Rodny Jariego of DZRH Unit No. 1]

[Text] Elements from the National Capital Region Defense Command [NCRDC] Security Command captured a high-ranking official from the New People's Army [NPA] in Bulacan recently. Lieutenant Colonel Orlando Pestano, spokesman of the NCRDC, identified the captured NPA commander as Romeo dela Cruz, alias comrade Hermit, reportedly an official of the Bulacan revolutionary party committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA. According to Colonel Pestano:

[Begin recording] [Pestano] This Romeo dela Cruz has been implicated in the attacks by the Bulacan detachments and in the killing of policemen in Barangay Tibayan, San Miguel, Bulacan last 1980.

[Jarlego] What effect will this have on the peace and order situation in Bulacan, sir?

[Pestano] As of now, many NPA rebels have already surrendered and have been captured by the joint forces of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces. One of them is the First Marine Brigade, and we are glad about the actions being undertaken by these two forces. [end recording]

Military To Upgrade Training, Send Cadets Abroad

HK2110063191 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 21 Oct 91 p 3

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] has forged an agreement with the governments of Japan and India to accommodate Filipino cadets in their military institutions.

General Lisandro C. Abadia, the AFP chief of staff, recently disclosed that by 1992 the Japanese national defense academy will open its doors to Filipino cadets. By 1993, he added, senior AFP officers can enter the national defense college of India.

Also, Abadia said the defense and AFP officials have yet to sit down with their American counterparts "to determine the future" of the Imet [International Military Education Training] courses which are dependent on U.S. funding assistance.

"Due to an overwhelming desire to make the AFP more dynamic, responsive and equal to the challenges of the times," Abadia said, "we have been reassessing and strengthening the education and training thrust of our organization."

Abadia, who is scheduled to return on Wednesday [23 October] from a weeklong visit to Indonesia and Brunei, emphasized the need to enhance education and training of military officials and personnel while alsopursuing a modest equipment modernization program in the AFP.

To attain this, the AFP has structured a "rational step-by-step education and training program" interspersed with staff and field duty assignments.

Under this scheme, the chief of staff said "our men are given career exposure in the different fields of specialization that would gradually ehnahce their professional advancement."

"More training opportunities are lined up to accommodate our personnel in foreign schools," he said.

Other policies laid out by Abadia were:

—The need to pursue education and training which include the improvement of school curriculum, faculty development and enhancement of training facilities.
"We must continue to upgrade and improve the quality of education accorded to our personnel and keep up witht he demands of the times."

—The need to be as independent as possible.
"I believe that there are many of our men who are highly capable of handling teaching positions in our training centers."

—The need to enforce with full support the AFP Code of Ethics.
"We must not only train our men to be technically efficient but we must also mold them into good soldiers who are capable of carrying out the visions of our organization which our people can be proud to identify themselves with," Abadia said.

—The need to develop a balanced distribution of professional expertise and competence to cover the broad spectrum of military occupational specialty requirements.

Abadia also announced that no more military officers retiring in six months would be promoted to general rank.

Army Postpones Rescuing Policemen From NPA

HK1710124991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Interview with Roy Pilandro, governor of Mountain Province, by Ronnie Gonzales and anchorman Joe Taruc—live; italicized passages in English]

[Text] [Gonzales] There has been a change in the orders of two military battalions that are headed for Mountain Province to continue military operations there. The peace commission of the Northern Luzon Command held a meeting at Camp Aquino on 8 October, which Governor Roy Pilandro of Mountain Province attended in an effort to discover the real mission of the two Army battalions headed for his province. We have right now Governor Roy Pilandro, who will give us an update on the present situation of the two batallions and on what will happen after they head for Batyag, Mountain Province to rescue the seven policemen being held hostage there.

Good afternoon, sir. We are now going out live on DZRH Manila.

[Pilandro] *With respect to the plan of the Philippine Army under General (Onismo Palugit) of the Northern Command, we had a meeting last Tuesday [8 October] at Camp Aquino together with General Soriano, the commander, or chief, based Cabu, Isabela; and General Manuel Lopez of Philippine National Police Regional Command Cordillera Administrative Region. We agreed during that meeting that the Philippine Army will defer their going to Mountain Province indefinitely until some other time that we will have again a meeting. And so far, the Philippine Army will not be going to my province.*

[Gonzales] One more question, sir. With regard to the military's postponement of operations in Mountain Province, when do you think the New People's Army [NPA] will release the seven policemen they are holding hostage in Batyag?

[Pilandro] *So far as the New People's Army are concerned, we were assured that they are ready to release the hostages, or the prisoners of war, as we call it. And the only hitch here was that the Army intends to go. So [word indistinct] to release them on the 16 October was delayed. I think there would be one more meeting or others, or may be, on or before the expiration of the suspension of military operations. This was declared by General Manuel Lopez with a smile, or maybe he kid me after that. So on or before, well, the first week of November or before the end of October they will be released.*

[Gonzales] Sir, I heard that the members of the NPA asked for the media to be present during the release. Have we been assured that the media people who are going there will be given safe conduct passes so that they will feel secure while covering the negotiations?

[Pilandro] *Well, that's it. In fact, there was some media people there, Jennifer were there and some others. And I think they welcome the coming of the media to cover the release of the hostages. Even, in fact, in the negotiations they would like the media to keep present. In fact, we have started the negotiations last week already, and we might go farther, or some sort of negotiations to (please) whatever demands they would like.*

[Gonzales] Joe, do you have any questions for the governor?

[Joe Taruc] Governor, good afternoon. Regarding these incidents in Mountain Province, may we know how closely the military is coordinating with local officials?

[Pilandro] It is quite good. *In fact General Manuel Lopez acceded to the first request of the NPA to suspend military offensive operations which started last 1 October of this month. Also, they are allowing the local officials to do the negotiations.*

Thailand

Foreign Minister Leaves for Cambodian Conference

BK2010144091 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin left for Paris last night to attend the International Conference on Cambodia. He told newsmen before his departure from Don Muang Airport that the peace treaty will be a signed on 23 October after which the United Nations would play a bigger role in helping and overseeing Cambodia, aided by its budget of about U.S. $1 billion. He said Thailand will give its full support in achieving all the objectives of the peace plan. The foreign minister said that there is no need for Thailand to contribute troops to the UN peacekeeping forces in the reconstruction of Cambodia.

[Begin recording] [Asa in progress] Instead of sending forces, Thailand would rather contribute in other forms for Cambodia's reconstruction such as in building roads or in electrification. I don't think that it is necessary for us to contribute forces. I do not support the idea. [end recording]

On the plan to open an embassy in Cambodia, the foreign minister said that they would rent an office at the beginning but would later buy a plot of land on which the embassy would be built.

Government Reaches Energy Accord With SRV

BK1910023291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet during his visit to Thailand will witness the signing of an energy cooperation agreement marking the start of natural gas contract negotiations.

Broad agreement on energy cooperation was reached at a two-day meeting of the countries Joint Economic Commission, which ended yesterday.

Faced with continuing growth in demand for energy, Thailand wants to secure oil and natural gas from Vietnam. Deputy Industry Minister Wira Susangkonkan has visited Vietnam three times this year to lobby for the agreement.

A memorandum of understanding spelling out the broad principles of energy cooperation proposed by Thailand will be signed during Mr Kiet's visit, which starts on October 27.

Thailand proposes joint exploration and use of natural gas from the Big Bear field, estimated to yield 300 million to 500 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, and offers to build a pipeline to transport the product from Vietnam through the Gulf of Thailand.

The commission's meeting made considerable progress in a wide range of bilateral cooperation issues paving the way for the summit between Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and Mr Kiet.

Apart from energy, agreements on joint fisheries cooperation and investment promotion and protection will be ready for the two leaders' endorsement.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun and Vietnamese Vice- Foreign Minister Vu Khoan declare the first meeting of the commission at which they co-presided to be "a significant contribution" to the summit.

The two sides yesterday signed the memorandum of understanding on energy.

In addition, Thailand allocated 20 million baht this fiscal year for technical cooperation with Vietnam and a team of Technical Cooperation Department officials are in Hanoi to assess that country's needs.

Vietnam wants to focus technical cooperation on education and public health, a senior official said.

With the Cambodian settlement and the recent visit of Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin to Hanoi, the two neighbours agreed to dispel past misunderstandings and embark on a "new era of relationship" focussing on economic cooperation for their mutual benefit.

Vice-Minister Vu Khoan said a few legal and technical problems remain with the fisheries agreement but the broad principles are already agreed.

Mr Wichian said he expects these differences to be smoothed out soon.

As a result of the meeting, the two countries agreed to work towards expansion of two-way trade. Thailand told Vietnam this could be achieved by smoothing the use of port facilities, banking relations and visa-issuing arrangements for business trips.

The Vietnamese minister said the commission also agreed to expand cooperation in production, particularly in joint venture areas such as food processing and the agro-industry.

While expressing satisfaction with the results, Mr Wichian said the two countries have to be realistic to translate their agreements into action.

Thailand is also pushing for an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, but Vietnam says it is trying to restructure its tax system.

Mr Wichian, turning to disputes over territorial waters, said the fact that Vietnam has agreed to hold further talks on this problem—which it had never acknowledged in the past—should be seen as progress.

Investment Accord Signed With Hungary 18 Oct

BK2010081891 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Thailand and the Republic of Hungary have signed an agreement on investment promotion and protection.

The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok on Friday [18 October] as Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin signed the accord on behalf of the Thai Government, while the Hungarian Government was represented by its finance minister.

The signing of the agreement is seen as a major step to encourage investment by both sides in territories of each country. It will create confidence among investors of the two countries in addition to strengthening economic relations between Thailand and the Republic of Hungary.

The accord took effect as of the day of the signing of the document.

Prisoner Exchange Treaty Signed with Finland

BK1810100191 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] An agreement on cooperation in the implementation of criminal case sentences between the Thai and Finnish governments was signed today in Bangkok. Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and Finnish Ambassador to Thailand Eero Kalevi Salovaara signed on behalf of their respective countries. The agreement will enable both countries to seek an extradition of prisoners. Finland is the ninth country to conclude such a treaty with Thailand, after the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Constitution Committee Modifies Draft Charter

BK1710063991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] The Constitution Scrutiny Committee has agreed unanimously to leave out Section 11 of the draft Constitution on the parliamentary ombudsman, committee spokesman Wira Pittarachat said yesterday.

The committee's meeting yesterday also rejected proposals by members of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] to separate totally the judicial branch and the Justice Ministry and for the Constitution to be amended with less difficulty.

Mr Wira said the committee, chaired by Osot Kosin, first considered a proposal by NLA member Prasoet Bunsi for total separation of the judicial branch from the ministry. Mr Prasoet said the ministry should be responsible only for administration.

The committee rejected the proposal on the grounds that the provisions in Section 9 are already suitable.

On Section 11 (Articles 215-221), 14 NLA members proposed that the entire section be deleted and three proposed amendments be made to some articles.

Under Article 219 of the draft Constitution, the parliamentary ombudsman appointed as nominated by the parliamentary president is empowered to receive and investigate complaints against government and local officials or state enterprises for failing to comply with the law, acting beyond their authority or failing to perform their duties, causing damage to the complainants or the public.

The committee believes this article gives too much power to the ombudsman whose duties overlap those of the Counter Corruption Commission, the Office of the Auditor-General and Juridical Council's office handling public complaints.

The committee unanimously agreed to leave out the whole of Section 11 from the Constitution.

On Section 13 covering constitutional amendments, many NLA members proposed that senators should not have the right to join MPs in submitting a motion seeking an amendment to the Constitution.

They proposed that only MPs, providing they total one-third of the combined membership of the House of Representatives and the Senate, be able to seek constitutional amendments.

They also proposed that more than one-half of the combined members of the two Houses be required to pass a constitutioal amendment bill in the first and third readings.

Under the original draft Constitution, senators can, with MPs, submit a motion for constitutional amendments and at least two-thirds of the combined membership of the two Houses is required to pass an amendment bill in the first and third readings.

After considering the proposals, the committee decided to uphold the original draft.

Anan Reaffirms Pledge for Free, Fair Elections

BK1710035591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Oct 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun told a large gathering of foreign journalists last night that he was fully committed to holding free and fair elections by early next year, and neither he nor his government would be satisfied with anything less than a complete adherence to this schedule and to the democratic spirit.

But he quickly pointed out his statement should not be construed as implying that he believes the development of a true democratic system will be easy in Thailand.

This was a key part of his address delivered to a foreign press dinner at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel. The foreign journalists and members of the local press were gathered to provide coverage on the World Bank/IMF annual meeting.

"It takes time to raise the political awareness of the population to shoulder the serious responsibilities inherent in a democratic way of life. Indeed, democracy is not something that can be handed down on a plate, but something which requires constant struggle, constant participation, and constant devotion to the principles of regular elections and holding politicians accountable for their actions," he said.

Telling the foreign journalists that he became prime minister under "accidental circumstances," Anan insisted that one of the principal roles of his government was ensuring "business as usual." This policy included a fundamental commitment by Thai economic policymakers to a private sector approach and to the progressive liberalization of the economy which has been in place for many years.

Anan was named prime minister by the military junta which toppled the Chatchai government in a coup d'etat on Feb 23 this year. Since then, his administration has been performing with a high degree of independence and considerable political will, despite periodic bullying by key junta leaders.

Besides his government's ability to ward off intervention by military figures in the Cabinet, Anan has also resisted repeated attempts by members of the armed forces exerting pressure on him for huge defence budgets.

His firm stand has boosted the image of his administration while the credibility of the junta has been eroding—a sharp turnaround from the popularity the military enjoyed when it ousted the previous corruption-ridden government.

Anan also urged reductions in defence spending in his keynote speech to the World Bank/IMF meeting on Tuesday, echoing the more forceful calls by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and World Bank President Lewis Preston on the issue.

In reply to a question on the same subject following the foreign press dinner, the prime minister said he believed that the Thai military was aware of the need to reduce the size of the armed forces as part of a restructuring.

"The Thai military is not stupid... It is aware of the irreversible trend towards peace. But such a reduction will have to be on a gradual basis," he pointed out.

But he conceded that a cut in the size of the Thai armed forces would have to be offset by more modern arms and greater fire-power because the present weapons are 30 years old. Besides, the annual defence budget had not been solely for arms procurement but for development in other areas as well.

Anan said he personally did not care whether the defence budget was increased or cut as the question of national security must be defined by each country and its people, and not from outside.

He also emphasized that political constraints or leadership changes here would not seriously affect the investment climate in Thailand.

Much of the content of his address focused on what the government had achieved during the past six months and what his Cabinet could do to speed up reform and lay the foundation for continued rapid growth towards the year 2000.

"I firmly believe that what we have achieved will be long lasting and will not be easily dismantled by succeeding governments, even if they wish to do so," he declared.

He reaffirmed that one of the most important tasks of the interim government has been to oversee the swift return to a democratic system of government, although the administration itself had no direct role in the drafting of the permanent constitution. But free and fair elections will be held in late February or early March of next year, he said.

He also assigned much importance to the role of the press. "A key player in the movement towards a richer democracy is a free and responsible press," he said.

The premier pointed out that even following the military coup, the Thai press was permitted to operate in a manner not conceivable under similar conditions elsewhere.

"Editorials that were extremely critical of the coup appared in several major newspapers the next day with no reprisals. This freedom of the press, deeply entrenched in the Thai body politic, will greatly facilitate the democratization process," he said.

But he conceded that the road to democracy will not be without setbacks and difficulties. Anan expressed confidence that the Thai people will develop a stronger sense of political consciousness and obligations, and that Thai politics will eventually be dominated by competent, honest, and highly qualified politicians.

Sunthon, Suchinda Reaffirm Backing for Anan

BK2010023791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Oct 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Top National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] leaders have reconfirmed the military panel will continue to support the Anan Panyarachun administration until it completes its duties under the interim constitution.

The assurances came from NPKC Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and Army Commander Gen

Suchinda Khraprayun in response to reporters' questions on Friday night and yesterday about the chances of a Cabinet reshuffle before the general election.

Talking to reporters at a party hosted for him by Prime Minister Anan at Ban Phitsanulok late Friday night, Gen Sunthon said the NPKC would not try to replace the interim government leader or interfere with the administration's work.

"The NPKC and the interim government are travelling in the same boat. We'll help each other get ashore," said Gen Sunthon.

The general was also quoted as making similar remarks to people at the party and urging them not to worry about the problem.

He reportedly said the NPKC spent a lot of time before deciding to appoint Mr Anan as prime minister.

"Since we chose him, we'll have to help support him until the end," Gen Sunthon was quoted as saying.

Talking to reporters during a break in a golf game yesterday, Gen Suchinda said the NPKC would support the present Government until the end of its term.

He dismissed as groundless speculation that the NPKC and the Government were in conflict.

The military's pledge of "support" for the Government was not made to hide conflicts but to indicate an intention to cooperate with the Government in its work, he said.

The NPKC is pleased with the Government's performances, Gen Suchinda said, citing in particular the success of the just- concluded World Bank and IMF meetings.

The Government would spend the rest of its term laying short and long-term economic and democratic development plans for the country for the new adminstration to continue, he said.

Gen Suchinda also reaffirmed that the NPKC was doing its part to eliminate corruption, one of the reasons cited for the February 23 coup.

The committee assigned to draft a bill to fight corruption has completed the draft which is now being scrutinised by the Government's screening committee, he said.

The continuing investigation against politicians suspected of amassing "unusual wealth" was also being speeded up so that it would be completed before the promulgation of the new constitution, he said.

Asked about the announced plan of New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut to seek a meeting with him to clear up any misunderstanding, Gen Suchinda said that Gen Chawalit was welcome.

But he had no issues or problems to discuss with Gen Chawalit and therefore felt under no obligation to talk about anything.

Gen Chawalit recently announced he would seek a meeting with Gen Suchinda to clear up allegations the NAP was behind a campaign to create unrest during the World Bank/IMF meeting.

Gen Suchinda said he had merely performed his duty when he publicly warned possible trouble-makers against disturbing the peace or creating disorder.

The warning was aimed as a deterrent, he said. "I have to say such things because it is my responsibility. I'm not concerned if anyone criticises me," he said.

If he were to meet Gen Chawalit over his statement, he would have to give all political party leaders similar treatment, he said.

"But if he really wants to meet me, there will be no problem. Reporters can still meet me, so how can (Gen Chawalit) be treated with less importance than you reporters?" Gen Suchinda asked.

Chat Thai Party Elects New Leader

BK2010034791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] Airports Authority of Thailand Governor Sombun Rahong was unanimously elected new leader of the Chat Thai Party yesterday.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun won the post uncontested at a party meeting. He takes over the leadership from Gen Chatchai Chunhawan who was ousted as prime minister in the Feburary 23 coup.

ACM Sombun, who is in China on a business trip, was not at the meeting.

Chat Thai spokesman Prathuang Wichanpricha said he is confident the appointment of ACM Sombun will help clear up political uncertainty which has shrouded the party since several leading members were investigated for allegedly amassing unusually high wealth.

By appointing ACM Sombun, Chat Thai stands a greater chance of becoming one of the coalition government members after the next election, Mr Pratuang said.

ACM Sombun was nominated for the leadership because of his widely-accepted ability to coordinate work with other political parties, among other things.

Chat Thai has apparently agreed to form an alliance with the military-backed Samakkhi Tham Party [STP] to serve as a core in forming a post-election government.

The selection of ACM Sombun, who is known to be close to Air Force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin, has been seen in some political circles as part of an alleged deal to clear some party leaders in the assets probe.

But Chat Thai advisory chairman Pol Gen [Police General] Praman Adireksan and Mr Prathuang deny the appointment of ACM Sombun is related to the assets investigation of Chat Thai leaders.

He defended the planned alliance with the STP, saying Chat Thai has always left its door open to cooperate with all political parties.

"We never wanted to become a political enemy of any party," he said.

Mr Prathuang said ACM Sombun is expected to run in Prachin Buri, the political base of Chat Thai party deputy leader Sano Thianthong, who approached ACM Sombun to join Chat Thai.

The spokessman said Mr Sano had talked privately with ACM Sombun about the leadership post for some time. No problems are expected although the election took place in ACM Sombun's absence.

Mr Sano, party secretary-general Banhan Sinlapa-acha and Pol Gen Praman were assigned by the party yesterday to convey the meeting's result to ACM Sombun in China.

ACM Sombun is scheduled to return on October 29 but Mr Sano is expected to ask him to return early to take up the post.

About 100 Chat Thai members—about 80 being former MPs—attended yesterday's meeting.

Mr Prathuang said it is believed the election of ACM Sombun will give party members more confidence and that many who had defected to other parties will return to run for Chat Thai.

Vietnam

'Friendly Relations' With Cambodia To Continue

BK2010022191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Oct 91 pp 1, 3

[By Phaisan Sicharatchanya in Hanoi]

[Text] Vietnam will continue to maintain "friendly relations" with Cambodia despite the latest major political changes in Phnom Penh with socialism being replaced by multi-party democracy and a free-market economy.

"Every nation has full right to decide its own destiny. We will respect whatever has been decided in Phnom Penh," Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai told the BANGKOK POST in an interview yesterday.

He said Vietnam's relations with the country will remain friendly even if Cambodia is ruled by non-socialists after multi-party elections.

The changes adopted during the party congress which has just ended in Phnom Penh did not surprise Vietnamese officials who privately said that a multi-party system is a logical evolution for Cambodia after a peace agreement among rival Khmer factions is signed in Paris this coming week.

Mr Le Mai said Vietnam is confident it will continue friendly relations with Cambodia because the Paris agreement will guarantee Khmer neutrality, which means Cambodia will pose no danger or security threat to all its neighbours.

UN Report on 'Volunteers' in Cambodia Rejected

BK1910075391 Hanoi VNA in English 0649 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 19—Vietnam has categorically rejected the ill-intentioned allegations about Vietnamese volunteers in Cambodia included in the report of the United Nations Third Committee for Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues.

Speaking at the October 15 session of the current 46th UN General Asembly, Mrs. Dinh Thi Minh Huyen, counselor of the Vietnamese Permanent Mission to the United Nations, said:

"As a victim of aggression by a foreign army which included mercenaries, Vietnam condemns the use of mercenaries. Therefore, it is surprised at the content of Paragraph A/38/ of document [passage indistinct] concerning the Vietnamese volunteer forces who had completely withdrawn from Cambodia by September 1989. The reference to this volunteer force as a 'mercenary arm' is completely groundless and a gross distortion of the situation in Cambodia. It reminds us of the anti-Vietnam opposition adopted by some persons during the cold war which disregards the reality in Cambodia and the fact that an agreement on the Cambodian conflict is due for signing at the end of this month".

Hong Kong Agrees To Resume Air Links in Dec

BK1310090691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Under an agreement reached recently between Hong Kong and Vietnam, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airway hoped to resume its flights to Vietnam in mid-December.

This is a joint venture with Air Vietnam.

As for Air Hong Kong, which specializes in air shipment, a plan for flights to Vietnam is also in the making.

Vo Tran Chi at Peasants Association Meeting

BK1510110291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 14 Oct 91

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Text] The paper SAIGON GIAI PHONG today carries the speech delivered by Vo Tran Chi, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee

Political Bureau and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee at the city's 12 October meeting to mark the 61st founding anniversary of the Vietnam Peasants Association.

Comrade Vo Tran Chi said: The CPV has consistently realized the important role of mass organizations, societies, and people in our political system. The Vietnam Peasants Association as well as other organizations should strive to renovate themselves to improve their activities. The association should enhance the quality of its members, provide them with better education, protect their interests, and motivate them to participate in cooperation programs. The association should also guide its members to elect competent persons who are able to protect the interests of the peasants and the nation to various state organs of authority so as to build and defend the revolutionary regime, while striving to introduce outstanding cadres to the party to help build and protect the CPV.

Meeting Marks Peasants Association's Anniversary

BK1510093391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Oct 91

["Report" on a meeting held in Hanoi on the afternoon of 14 October to mark the 61st founding anniversary of the Vietnam Peasants Association]

[Summary] "This afternoon at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi, the Vietnam Peasants Association, the party Central Committee, and the Hanoi municipal party committee organized a solemn meeting to mark the 61st founding anniversary of the Vietnam Peasants Association—14 October 1930.

"Attending the meeting were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee; and many comrade members of the Political Bureau, the Secretariat, and the Council of Ministers.

"Also attending the meeting were representatives of the various agencies, departments, sectors, and mass organizations at the central level and in Hanoi; veteran cadres; comrade party committee and people's committee chairmen of many provinces; and some 1,000 delegates representing peasants and peasants association cadres of Hanoi municipality, Hai Phong city and the provinces of Hai Hung, Ha Bac, Bac Thai, Thai Binh, Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Tay, and Nghe An."

Following the opening speech of Comrade Nguyen Thi Hue, vice president of the Vietnam Peasants Association, Comrade Pham Bai, president of the Vietnam Peasants Association, delivered a speech.

After stressing the importance of the formation of the Vietnam Peasants Association, Comrade Pham Bai recalled the birth and growth of the association over the past 61 years, pointing out that the association has always proved itself to be a reliable link between the peasantry and the party as well as a firm support for the administration, and that since the August 1945 Revolution, the association has faithfully represented the legitimate interests of the peasantry and has served as an important socio-political factor for consolidating the worker-peasant-intelligentsia alliance.

Next, Comrade Pham Bai dealt with the Vietnamese peasantry's great agricultural achievements over the past years and set forth four concrete tasks for the association to fulfill in the days ahead as follows:

—Motivate peasants to implement the rural economic development program.

—Initiate a widespread movement for mutual assistance among peasants.

—Bring about a civilized and bountiful life in the countryside.

—Develop the association into a comprehensively firm and strong organization and renovate its operating procedures so that it can meet the requirements of the new situation.

"Addressing the meeting, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi commended the peasantry for its great contributions to the cause of national defense and construction. Whatever the circumstances, peasants have always followed the path traced by the party, making important contributions to the renovation undertaking and the task of building a new countryside."

Next, the comrade general secretary dealt with the Vietnamese peasantry's contributions to socioeconomic development, especially to the agricultural production front, and stressed the need for our entire party and people to turn the seventh party congress resolution into reality by making efforts to accelerate agro-forestry-fishery development while at the same time boosting service and processing industries and building a new countryside.

"Also at this solemn meeting, the Vietnam Peasants Association Central Committee executive body presented the 'For the Sake of the Cause of the Vietnamese Peasantry' Medal to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, Comrade Pham Van Dong, Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet, and Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap.

"Next, Comrade Cam Loan, vice president of the Vietnam Peasants Association, read Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong's letter to cadres and members of the Vietnam Peasants Association on the occasion of the latter's 61st founding anniversary.

"The meeting to mark the 61st founding anniversary of the Vietnam Peasants Association concluded in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and firm belief amid the sound of music of the traditional song titled 'As If Uncle Ho Were Present on the Day of Great Victory.'"

Do Muoi Addresses Meeting

BK1510092791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Oct 91

["Report" on CPV General Secretary Do Muoi's Address at 14 October Meeting in Hanoi to Mark the 61st Anniversary of the Vietnam Peasants' Association]

[Text] After recalling the process of building the Vietnamese peasantry and its growth toward maturity under the party leadership over the past 61 years, the general secretary said: In the past years, the campaign to motivate peasants to increase production and thrifty practices according to the new mechanism of agricultural management has vigorously developed the immense latent potential of peasants. The achievements in the production of grain, food products, and agricultural exports are very encouraging. The Peasants' Association should generally summarize and disseminate the experiences of this movement, continue to promote the spirit of self-reliance of tens of millions of peasants, and struggle to attain the agricultural objectives set in the seventh party congress resolution in order to achieve 30 million tonnes of grain and double the total volume of social production by the end of this decade.

We advocate the policy of developing peasants' family-based economy. At the same time, we must continue to renovate the mechanism to enable agricultural cooperatives to raise their management standard and satisfactorily perform those tasks that individual peasants' households either have no condition to assume or have done ineffectively. We must encourage the expansion of various forms of voluntary economic cooperation among peasants and ensure that peasants can be active in the course of production to develop the strength of each peasant's household while promoting the strength of collectives, especially in those tasks such as service, technical, credit, consumption of products, and supply of production and living means, thus creating the integrated strength to promote the comprehensive development of agriculture.

On the basis of vigorously developing agricultural, forestry, and fishery production in connection with the consolidation and expansion of various forms of voluntary cooperation among peasants, we should, on the one hand, encourage good peasants' households to invest in developing production and business and to enrich themselves legally, and on the other hand, accelerate the movement of solidarity and mutual support and assistance in rural areas, thereby creating conditions for everyone to surge forward and then in turn definitely reduce poor households in rural areas.

The sectors of agriculture, water conservancy, industry, trade, marketing cooperatives, credits, banking, and so forth should look to the countryside to effectively serve peasants and agricultural production, promptly meet the requirements of production and life of peasants, increase the percentages of goods for agriculture, raise the purchasing power of peasants, create a broad, large, abundant and diverse domestic market, and promote the rapid development of our country's economy.

The scientific and technical sectors should direct their activities toward rural areas to meet the needs of our agriculture that is rapidly shifting to the production of goods with high productivity, quality, and effectiveness to fulfill the demands for domestic consumption and export. Along with economic development, we should continue to accelerate vigorously the movement to build new rural areas; establish insurance and pension funds; build houses, schools, health stations, water wells, public sanitation projects, roads, and radio networks; and strive to bring electricity gradually to rural areas, and so forth.

We must struggle against corruption, achieve democracy and social justice, strengthen solidarity, cultivate a sense of community to help and protect one another in dire straits, build new cultural families, raise the people's intellectual and health standards, wipe out illiteracy, and popularize primary education.

The birth rates in rural areas are still too high in comparison with the general rate countrywide. As a result, we must pay attention particularly to implementing well the policies on population growth and family planning; assure public security, order, and safety; oppose superstition, alcoholism and gambling; make rural areas a sound and healthy place; create an impetus to accelerate economic development; and make worthy contributions to national construction and defense.

In the present social production, we should correctly realize the close relationships between agriculture and industry; between agroindustry and service; and among workers, peasants, and intellectuals. Each product—either industrial or agricultural—is the common achievement of workers, peasants, and intellectuals. As a result, while the abilities of the whole country and various sectors are being mustered for the benefit of agriculture, peasants themselves should realize clearly their duties. First of all, they must make contributions to the state in accordance with prescibed policies and laws. It is their duty to create an ever more abundant source of raw materials to meet the requirements of developing industries, primarily the industry to process agricultural, forestry, and maritime products. It is their duty to ensure the supply of grain and food products to workers and people in cities and industrial complexes, fulfilling the responsibility of agriculture to industry and the peasants'responsibility to the people countrywide. This is the very economic base for consolidating and strengthening the alliance of workers, peasants, and intellectuals in our country.

The people countrywide, first of all peasants, must consider every inch of land as an inch of gold in order that the land, forests, seas, plants, and all sources of living things and water are managed and used in a very economical, rational, and effective manner because these extremely valuable resources are feeding us. In the course of exploitation, we must emphasize the nursing of land, prevent its erosion and depletion, and make land ever richer and more fertile. We must prevent the turning of cultivated land, especially acquired and agricultural land, into residential land. We must attentively make forests and seas ever richer, and must necessarily not allow these resources to become exhausted, because this will bear adverse impact on the ecological environment and living conditions of not only our present generation but also our children's generations in the future.

This is the very pressing and fundamental duty of the whole country, the responsibility of party organizations and the administration at all levels—primarily at grass-roots level in rural areas—the Peasants' Association and the peasants themselves who are vested by the state and the people with the right to directly use this extremely important resource.

Finally, the general secretary spoke of the relationship between the party and peasants and the need to consolidate and strengthen the flesh-and-blood relationship between peasants and the party. He said: The revolution is an undertaking of the people. The relationship between the party and the people is a matter of life and death for the revolution. As a result, we must continually consolidate and strengthen the flesh-and-blood relationship between peasants and the party. Each party member in rural areas, no matter in what position, should participate in the activities of the Peasants' Association, set examples of good ethics and respect for the state law, correctly implement his citizen's rights and duty, and struggle to enrich himself and the society. Together with the Peasants' Association at grass-roots level, we must care for the peasants' legitimate rights while conducting educational propaganda to make peasants clearly understand and satisfactorily implement the party policies and the state law. We must satisfactorily solve problems of production and life of peasants.

Party committees in rural areas should fully develop the role of the Peasants' Association, rely on it and through it organize the implementation of the party lines and policies. Party committee echelons must periodically listen to the Peasants' Association report on the results of its activities, set forth guidelines and tasks, correct errors and concretize the party lines and policies into the action programs of the Peasants' Association and other mass organizations. We must resolutely purify and enhance the quality of party members in rural areas and expel corrupt, degenerate, and deviant members who enjoy privileges and prerogatives and oppress peasants. We should consolidate peasants' confidence in the party.

Our administration is of the people, by the people, and for the people. As a tool of the people, it is responsible to the people and is vested by the people with the right to comprehensively manage the social life. The efficiency of the administration can be brought into play only when we rely on the people and genuinely guarantee the people's right to mastery through various mass organizations. As a result, the administration at all levels in rural areas must create conditions for bringing into full play the role of mass organizations and the people's right to mastery in the management of all aspects of social life in rural areas.

Vo Chi Cong's Letter Read

BK1410100991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong's letter to cadres and members of the Vietnam Peasants Association "on the occasion of their 61st founding anniversary"; date not given]

[Text] For 61 consecutive years now, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and venerated and beloved President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese peasantry has constantly developed the spirit of revolutionary heroism, remained absolutely loyal to the working class's party, and persistently struggled against nature to produce grain and food to feed the entire society. Together with the entire people, it has struggled in a stalwart and unsubmissive fashion against foreign aggression and the remnants of the feudal system and has participated in the struggle to restore power to the people and safeguard the fatherland's independence and freedom.

Our party and people take great pride in the Vietnamese peasantry and highly value its important role in the cause of national liberation and national unification, as well as in the task of building and defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

The letter continues: The Vietnamese peasantry and the Vietnam Peasants Association have very heavy tasks to fulfill in order to contribute to implementing the seventh party congress resolution, accelerate the overall renovation undertaking, and defend and build the fatherland.

Being a socio-political organization of the Vietnamese peasantry, the association should positively contribute to fulfilling national socioeconomic objectives and tasks and should motivate peasants to uphold their fine traditions and fulfill their obligation toward the fatherland. It is important for the association to constantly renovate its organizational and operating procedures, as well as to meet peasants' legitimate demands and improve their working and living conditions. It is necessary to see to it that the association serves as a broad organization for peasants and a key venue for the various mass revolutionary movements in the countryside. By so doing, there will be conditions for bringing into full play the peasantry's material, spiritual, and intellectual strengths needed for the struggle to build a new life in the countryside and to turn our country into a rich and powerful nation.

Let cadres at all levels make efforts for self-improvement in all fields, develop strong points, overcome shortcomings, heighten the sense of responsibility, remain stalwart and firm, constantly improve their knowledge and skills, and go out of their way to help peasants with their daily problems. They must also talk and listen to peasants, if they are to win their hearts.

Radio Examines Union's Role

BK1710031891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Every year, whenever October 14th comes, Vietnamese peasants throughout the country celebrate the traditional day of the founding of the Vietnam Peasants Union.

Sixty-one years ago the Red Peasants Union, the predecessor of the Vietnam Peasants Union, was founded under a decision of the first conference of the party Central Committee in order to gather all peasant forces to contribute to the national struggle for independence and freedom in the past and for national construction and defense at present.

In his letter to the entire Vietnamese peasantry on this occasion, State Council President Vo Chi Cong noted that under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], the Vietnam Peasants Union always proves to be the authentic representative of the peasantry.

At present, the union has more than 10 million members. The union representives at different levels have mapped out plans of activities based on party and state policies and aimed at motivating peasants to boost production and build a new countryside.

The present living conditions have in the recent years been improved, thus contributing to stabilizing the general situation in the country. However, there remain many problems, especially social ones, to be settled. While many peasant families are able to get rich in the new mechanism, 10 to 20 percent of the rural households remain poor. The material and cultural life in many areas is still low and food production is far behind the population growth due to a high birth rate.

In face of such a situation, the union is trying its best to renovate itself so as, together with the entire people, to carry out the present renovation.

NHAN DAN Marks Anniversary

BK1410091591 Hanoi VNA in English 0609 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct 14—Editorially marking the Vietnam Peasants Union's anniversary NHAN DAN today calls on the entire population to join their efforts for rural development so as to further step up the renovation.

The paper recalls that 61 years ago, the Red Peasants' Union, the predecessor of the Vietnam Peasants Union, was founded under a decision of the first conference of the party Central Committee (the first congress). It says:

"Under the leadership of the party and the union, the Vietnamese peasants have always made great contributions to the cause of national liberation and socialist construction.

"The Communist Party of Vietnam, at its fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh congresses, determined the extremely important role of agriculture and the countryside in the cause of socialist construction. More than 50 million people, about 80 percent of the population live in the countryside. Thanks to the party political bureau's 10th resolution on agricultural management as well as other policies worked out by the party [words indistinct], the peasants' living conditions have in recent years been improved, thus contributing to stabilizing the general situation in the country".

"However," the paper goes on, "many problems, especially social ones, remain to be settled. While many peasant families are able to get rich through the new mechanism, 10 to 20 percent of the rural households remain poor. The material and cultural life in many areas is still low, and food production is far behind the population growth due to high birth rates.

"In face of such a situation" NHAN DAN points out, "the Vietnam peasants' union should renovate itself so as to be able to shoulder its responsibility as the peasantry representative.

"In so doing, the union can mobilize peasants to take part in production movement and build a new countryside while caring for its members legitimate interests and joining the party and administration in the solution of new problems in the countryside" says NHAN DAN.

Nguyen Khanh Attends Hanoi College Anniversary

BK1510134291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] This morning, the Hanoi Polytechnic College solemnly held a ceremony to mark its 35th founding anniversary.

Attending the function were Comrade Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Tran Hong Quan, minister of education and training; representatives of central and Hanoi organs and offices; many high-ranking officials from the army and economic sectors who were students there before; and all teachers, staff, and students of the college.

Representatives from the embassies of the USSR, Laos, Cambodia, Cuba, Hungary, DPRK, France, Indonesia, Australia, Britain, and Japan and representatives of universities in USSR, Finland, Japan, and France also came to share the joy with the Hanoi Polytechnic College.

Professor Hoang Trong Yen, the college's principal, delivered a speech mentioning the college's development and achievements scored in training, scientific research, and international cooperation in the last 35 years.

Following the party's line on education and with its dynamism and creativeness, the Hanoi Polytechnic College has striven to become a big scientific research and training center of the country. The last 35 years are the long years that the college has constantly trained many polytechnic engineers and diversified the training method in order to upgrade the scientific, technological, and knowledge levels of students.

Overcoming shortcomings and limitations, the college is striving to make new positive changes in all of its working fields in the future.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 15 Oct

BK1510075591 Hanoi VNA in English 0633 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct.15—Frontpaged in the Hanoi press today is an illustrated report on Kaysone Phnomvihan's departure here yesterday after his 3-day official visit to Vietnam.

The papers carry in full a joint statement on the visit, in which the two sides declared their determination to do their utmost to preserve and foster the relationship of friendship and special solidarity between Vietnam and Laos on the basis of the respect for each other's national independence and sovereignty, as well as of equality, mutual benefit and mutual assistance.

In a relevant editorial, QUANG DOI NHAN DAN warmly welcomes the Lao leader's visit as a new step of development in the special Vietnamese-Lao relationship of solidarity.

Large treatment is also given to a grand meeting here yesterday to mark the 61st anniversary of the Vietnam Peasants Union (Oct.14) in the presence of party General Secretary Do Muoi, who is quoted as saying at the meeting: The Peasants Union, in different names, has always fulfilled its task, being the worthy representative of the peasants' legitimate rights... The union has served as a firm bridge linking the peasantry with the party, a reliable mainstay of the people's administrations in the countryside, and a body that rallies peasants in the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance.

The papers further report on Premier Vo Van Kiet's reception here yesterday of Thai Ambassador Suraphong Chaiyanam and on Fatherland Front President Nguyen Huu Tho's message to Sisto Balisita Santana, president of the Cuban Committee for the Defence of Revolution, expressing the Vietnamese people's solidarity with the Cuban people.

Vietnam news says that the pharmaceutical company Vinaspecia in Ho Chi Minh City has detected, in the consignment of 700 kilos of sulfadiazine imported by the representative office of the Yteco company and Rhone Poulenc firm of France in the city, foreign adulteration including iron, chromium and nickel which are considered very damaging to health.

Domestic news reports are about the Hanoi polytecmics occasioned by its 35th founding anniversary the floods caused by heavy rains in Quang Binh Province from Oct. 5-9 and the recent inauguration of the Hai Phong Cigarette Factory in cooperation with Rothmans (Britain).

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 16 Oct

BK1610080891 Hanoi VNA in English 0613 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 16—Today's newspapers frontpage reports that Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday new Lao and Australian ambassadors to Vietnam Khampeth Phengmuang and Michael John Potts.

Also frontpaged is a report that Thailand's Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has invited Chairman Vo Van Kiet to pay an official friendship visit to Thailand.

NHAN DAN carries an article entitled 'Response to the World Food Day-October 16' by Vice Minister of Forestry Tran Son Thuy, underlining Vietnam's great efforts in afforestation.

A report says that more than 100 foreign companies from six countries and regions have declared their participation in the november to december Quang Trung Fair in Ho Chi Minh City.

'VIETNAM NEWS' carries an article on ASEAN investment in Vietnam saying that so far businessmen from five ASEAN member countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore have investment projects in Vietnam.

The papers report that so far 102 foreign business delegations have come to explore possibilities of cooperation and investment in the central province of Quang Nam-Danang and that a delegation of the Soviet Union of Fatherland led by Vice President V.E. Gavrilovich paid a visit to Vietnam from October 8-14.

International reports deal with the sixth congress of the Communist Party of Cuba which ended on Oct.14 with Fidel Castro re- elected as first secrtary of the party central committee.

Other reports are about the 3rd National Seminar on the Prevention and Fight against Intestinal Diseases, opened here on October 10, and the 1991 National Badminton Championship for players of over 40 years old.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 17 Oct

BK1710073391 Hanoi VNA in English 0600 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 17—The press here today frontpages a congratulatory message from General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi to Fidel Castro Ruz on his re-election as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Another frontpage report says that Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday morning Italian Ambassador to Vietnam Maurizio Teucci to whom he expressed satisfaction at the development of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Italy.

The first five-year course of the faculty of journalism has opened at the Hanoi University with and enrolment of 200 students, NHAN DAN reports. The press also reports that an exhibition of Vietnamese exports named "Vietexpo-Hong Kong 91" will be held in Hong Kong from October 22-25, and Mr. J.J. Bossano, governor of the Republic of Gibraltar, arrived here yesterday afternoon for an official visit to Vietnam.

A report says that singer Tham Lam of the Central Light music troupe was awarded the grand prix at the finals of the 2nd national light music solo contest-1991 which closed here on Oct. 14 after five evenings of competition.

"VIETNAM NEWS" reports that a Chinese-style restaurant named "Ha Quang", the first Vietnam-China joint venture in the restaurant service, will open at [words indistinct] Hai Ba Trung Maize Research Institute under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture have been put into widespread cultivation in northern provinces.

International news reports says that Soviet President M.S. Gorbachev and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Croation President Franjo Tudjman signed in Moscow on Tuesday a three-point memorandum on an immediate cease-fire in the Yugoslav conflict, and that a free election organised by the United Nations will be held in Cambodia in March 1993.

Australia

Acting PM Says Economic Recovery 'Strong'

BK1710102291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Canberra, Oct 17 (AFP)—Australia could be on its way to the strongest economic recovery since World War Two, Acting Prime Minister Brian Howe said here Thursday.

A week after Prime Minister Bob Hawke said the recession was ending but the recovery weak, Howe told parliament: "The recovery is strong and well-based and could well be the strongest recovery, certainly over the post-war period."

It was based, he said, "on a recognition of the international character of the Australian economy".

The government had set in place some fundamental reforms that would "ensure recovery is sustainable in the longer term."

Howe, acting prime minister while Hawke is at the Commonwealth summit in Harare, was responding to questions by opposition leader John Hewson about whether he agreed with an assessment made by Treasurer John Kerin in Bangkok that the recession was the worst in 60 years.

Howe described it as a "frivolous debating point", said the focus should be on the recovery and cited recent strong growth in housing, retail sales and forward indicators.

"It's clear that Australia is now well-positioned for a sustained recovery in investment, employment and activity," he said.

Howe's comment coincided with similarly upbeat remarks by Secretary to the Treasury Tony Cole.

Speaking at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meeting in Bangkok, Cole was quoted as saying retail sales data indicated economic recovery could have started in April.

Australian workers would tackle recovery with a new anti-inflation psychology, he said. "We have continuing growth in exports, housing, consumer spending, and we should have a turnaround in the stock cycle.

"For the first time in about 20 years we have inflation below that of our trade partners."

Industry Minister John Button also told parliament Thursday that while unemployment was bad, there were clear gains on inflation, trade and the fiscal policy front.

"These improvements allow us to reasonably expect a stronger, more structurally sound economy in the 1990s compared with what we were left with at the beginning of the 1980s," he said. He said the recession of 1982-83 faced the double bogey of inflation and unemployment which left the economy structurally weak.

Foreign Minister Cancels Trip To Fiji

BK1710122491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Sydney, Oct 17 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has cancelled a planned visit next month to Fiji which was regarded as a chance to improve relations between the two countries.

A spokesman for Evans said Thursday the cancellation was because of "an absolutely packed program", including trips to Paris to sign the Cambodian peace agreement, to South Korea and to the Soviet Union.

"But he is looking at the possibility of visiting Fiji during a trip to the South Pacific early next year," the spokesman said.

Evans' trip was arranged at his request even though he was banned last year from Fiji because of his criticism of its new racially-based constitution.

The trip was announced in July and was planned for October or November so that Evans would avoid being caught up in the election campaign expected shortly thereafter.

It was viewed, at least diplomatically, as an opportunity to improve relations, which have been cool, at best, since the 1987 coups which toppled the country's first government with an ethnic Indian majority.

However, the minister's spokesman said the Fiji trip was impossible because of his packed program right up to the third week of December.

He is off to Paris next week, immediately after which the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is visiting Australia, then Evans leaves for a conference in Seoul and a trip to the Soviet Union before U.S. President George Bush comes here in December.

In the meantime, Fiji's opposition Labour Party made clear Thursday that that it still attaches considerable political weight to the pressure Australia is able to apply on Fiji's post-coup government.

Labour President Jokapeci Koroi urged the Fiji government to heed the advice of Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and take a bipartisan approach by abandoning elections and abrogating its constitution.

She said the government should start talks with opposition parties on a democratic constitution that would enable Fiji to return to the Commonwealth.

The interim Suva government should heed Hawke's words and take a more bipartisan initiative, Koroi said.

In response to calls by 20 countries at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Harare about

Fiji's possible readmission to the Commonwealth, Hawke said Fiji had made some improvement since the 1987 coups.

But he warned of elements in the constitution that did not meet criteria of equality of races required for Commonwealth membership. The constitution favours Fiji's indigenous Melanesian population.

Fiji has been out of the Commonwealth since declaring itself a republic after the coups.

Visiting Kurdish Leader Seeks Emergency Aid

BK1710072891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] A representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan claims thousands of Kurds could die from exposure during the coming winter in northern Iraq. On a visit to Australia's capital, Canberra, [words indistinct] Commander (Husayn Sanjavi) said that Iraqi Kurds urgently needed tents, blankets, and medical supplies.

Mr. (Sanjavi) said most of the Kurds' domestic livestock had either been killed or stolen by Iraqi troops. He urged the Australian Government to send any surplus live sheep to northern Iraq to provide his people with meat and wool.

New Zealand

Acting Premier Promises To Recognize Croatia

BK2010083891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Wellington, Oct 20 (AFP)—New Zealand will recognize the breakaway Yugoslav republic of Croatia, and the only question is "when" and not if, acting Prime Minister Don McKinnon said here Sunday.

His comments came after meeting Croatia's deputy foreign minister Mihilja Montiljo. McKinnon said the government was sympathetic to the plight of the Croatians, who he said had suffered a great deal in the recent fighting.

New Zealand supports the efforts of the European Community to bring a negotiated end to the fighting, he said.

Montiljo, who is on a private visit, said he wanted New Zealand to recognise Croatia's independence. A spokesman for McKinnon said the minister replied that recognition was "not a question of if, but when.

"But one thing is clear, New Zealand will not be leading the charge," the spokesman said.

He said there was no timetable for recognition of Croatia, but it was accepted now that developments there had "gone too far to go back."

Trade Minister Says French Farmers 'Hooligans'

BK2110100891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Wellington, Oct 21 (AFP)—French farmers acted like soccer hooligans when they hijacked and burned five truckloads of New Zealand lamb, Trade Minister Philip Burdon said Monday.

"It is in much the same league, I suspect, to some aspects of a soccer riot," he said, Burton told a news conference, adding that it was a case of a sector group "putting the boot in."

Burton added that the French Government could not be held responsible, saying "I think you should distinguish between the actions of the French farmers and the French Government."

The farmers burned the lamb as a protest against diminishing returns from farming in France.

Meanwhile Burdon, who returned at the weekend from a trade mission to China, Iran and Britain, said the prospects of breaking the deadlock in the next round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks were high.

He said "enlightened self-interest" would result in a successful conclusion of the negotiations, which stalled last year.

"There is most certainly an expectation that we are going to see a significant shift in the position of the Europeans and the approach they took last year," he said.

A paper drawn up by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel was likely to meet with "qualified endorsement of all major players" and a political agreement by the end of November.

"We believe it is now possible to reach an agreement. We believe the Europeans are going to recognise considerable concessions in respect of their traditional positions on agriculture," the minister said.

Government Sells 2 Planes To Undisclosed Buyer

BK1710121891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Wellington, Oct 17 (AFP)—New Zealand's government has sold two passenger aircraft but would not say Thursday who was the buyer and for how much.

The two Fokker Friendship F27s had been owned by the Ministry of Transport which used them for airport calibration.

A question was asked in Parliament Thursday but Maurice McTigue, on behalf of Minister of Transport Rob Storey, would only confirm they had been sold.

The conditions of sale prevented him from disclosing to whom they were sold or at what price, McTigue said.

Despite opposition objections Speaker of the House Robin Gray said he had no jurisdiction over how ministers answered questions.

Environment Minister To Consider Nuclear Power

BK1710095691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Wellington, Oct 17 (AFP)—A government minister and another leading member of Parliament said Thursday New Zealand may be forced to consider nuclear power in the future.

But acting Prime Minister Don McKinnon promptly issued a statement saying nuclear power was not on for this country.

A commission of inquiry 15 years ago decided nuclear power would be uneconomic here, and six years ago anti-nuclear laws were passed prohibiting nuclear reactors.

Environment Minister Rob Storey however said Thursday he wanted the government to have another look at nuclear power. He said the pressure on energy resources was such that in 20 or 30 years time the nuclear option might need to be "viewed again".

The chairman of a parliamentary select committee, Warren Kyd, meanwhile warned that New Zealand's natural gas was running out, it was no longer acceptable to dam more rivers and Wellington was internationally obliged to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

"There is really no easy source of fuel and I think we should once more evaluation [as received] nuclear energy to see if that might not be the best alternative," he told Radio New Zealand.

"By the end of the century we will have very safe nuclear stations which will cause less damage to the environment than any other source."

McKinnon's statement said the government remained opposed to nuclear electricity generation here. "That position and that policy remain unchanged," he said.